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APR 27 1978

FBIS-LAT-78-76
Wednesday
19 April 1978
Vol VI No 76

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DAILY REPORT

COMPLETED
ORIGINAL

LATIN AMERICA

Available for Distribution
From NTIS

FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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VIDELA QUESTIONED BY SOUTH KOREAN NEWSMEN

PY180256Y Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 16 Apr 78 p 1 PY

[Text] The objective of the present process is a true pluralistic democracy based on the stability of institutions, on the moral sense of coexistence, on the appropriate enforcement of rights and duties and, of course, on an actual equality of opportunities for all sectors of the population.

This concept was stated by Lt Gen Jorge Rafael Videla during an interview granted to a group of newsmen from the Republic of Korea, headed by Assistant Director of the news Division of the Korean Broadcasting System Mr Pak Song-yun. The text of the interview was released by the Korean Embassy.

During the meeting, the president indicated that Argentina became independent with a strong and unswerving democratic view, and he emphasized that "freedom is the essential value of our system of living, as a nation."

When Videla was asked which of the internal policies had received greater emphasis from the government, he replied that stress was placed on implementation of a free, just and creative order which, without the threats of an ideological extremism, may allow a thorough fulfillment of the Argentine man. Regarding the economy, he emphasized the decrease of inflation, the increase of reserves and the trade surplus--the highest in 10 years.

Regarding foreign policy, the president stated that Argentina is implementing an independent policy which tends to increase the cooperation and friendship links with all countries of the world. He added: "Our immediate effort is aimed at strengthening links with Latin American countries, but we also make sure to attend all the forums where issues which may affect our permanent interests are discussed. We believe in the essential values of freedom, peaceful coexistence and respect among nations, and we try to strengthen them on all possible occasions."

The newsmen then asked about the possibilities for Koreans to participate in Argentine agriculture and fishing development projects. The president answered that Korean citizens who have arrived in Argentina have been very well received, but he indicated that proposals for [Korean] settlements must be based on firm plans which will be subject to the approval of the national and provincial governments. As an example, he recalled the colonization project in Santiago del Estero Province and the settlement of fishing colonies in Santa Cruz, the latter still pending approval.

The Korean newsmen were interested in agriculture and industrial projects in Argentina. Videla stated: "The projects which we have implemented in the agricultural sector are part of an economic policy for expansion, and they mean primarily the expansion of areas devoted to farming and livestock grazing, particularly in areas with less rainfall. Regarding industrial development, the projects involve an investment equal to 12 percent of the gross national product, mainly oriented toward basic sectors of the economy."

The president also praised the effort of the Korean Government and people for achieving greater economic expansion and he indicated that there are good prospects for imminent strengthening of economic links between the two countries.

General Videla was then asked regarding a possible visit to Korea.

He answered: "Even though at the moment I do not have firm plans to visit your country, I must admit my desire to visit Korea and have direct contact with its people and spiritual richness. The Argentine Government, through appropriate channels, will make all possible efforts to increase the traditional and growing relations between our respective countries."

NAVY SAID TO OPPOSE VIDELA AS FUTURE PRESIDENT

PY181434Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 18 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires--Unofficial military sources have stated that the navy has firmly opposed allowing Lt Gen Jorge Rafael Videla to continue as Argentine president after he retires as army commander in chief. According to the sources, the decision was reported to General Videla through navy Commander Emilio Massera, who stated that the president's image is worn out, particularly regarding the economic leadership of the country.

MONTES DISCUSSES TODMAN REMOVAL, OTHER TOPICS

PY190130Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0130 GMT 19 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Apr--"His removal is regrettable," stated Foreign Relations Minister Oscar Antonio Montes when journalists queried him about the resignation of U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Terence Todman.

He added: "I believe his resignation is due to personal problems, but nevertheless, I believe that for Argentina it means the loss of one of the men from the State Department who understood our country best."

Foreign Minister Montes discussed this and other subjects during a dialog he held tonight with journalists before his departure for Bolivia early tomorrow morning.

Regarding invitations sent to some countries for soccer's World Cup, Montes confirmed this report, noting that "through our ambassadors we will extend invitations to presidents or foreign ministers to come to Argentina. They will be declared official guests and they will be able to attend the sports events they choose."

Regarding the Canadian delegation which is still in Argentina, he explained that that delegation was invited to Argentina on the inaugural flight of Aerolineas Argentinas and that our embassy in Canada extended this invitation for a qualified Canadian delegation to visit Argentina.

The foreign minister added: "Of course, once they were here they were invited to know the real Argentina, and since there is a nuclear specialist among them, they will go to Cordoba to see for themselves the result of the Canadian cooperation. They believe that the Argentine situation regarding cultural and social matters is very similar to that of Canada. They are going to report about the true Argentine situation once they return to Canada.

MONTES, ROVIRA COMMENT ON BORDER AGREEMENTS

PY181545Y Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 18 Apr 78 PY

[Excerpts] At the end of the ceremony demarcating the Rio de la Plata, Foreign Ministers Montes and Rovira met the press and agreed that common border problems between neighboring countries can be solved when both parties are willing to negotiate and reach an understanding.

Argentine Foreign Minister Montes stated that the priority program of the military junta's foreign policy is rapprochement with Latin American countries, especially with neighboring countries. He also emphasized relations with Uruguay, which he considered to be excellent, and explained that he and Uruguayan Foreign Minister Alejandro Rovira have a personal friendship which greatly facilitates negotiations.

Montes also pointed out that on Thursday he will leave for Bolivia and then go to Costa Rica, heading the Argentine delegation which will attend the ceremony marking the assumption of the new Costa Rican Government.

He added that toward the end of May, possibly on 22 May, he will leave for New York to explain at the United Nations General Assembly the Argentine position regarding disarmament.

Regarding bilateral negotiations with Chile to solve border problems in the southern part of the continent, Montes stated that the second Argentine-Chilean commission is about to be established, and that it will begin talks toward the beginning of next year at the latest.

Concerning the Paraguayan request for a free port, Montes said that he will discuss this subject with Paraguayan Foreign Minister Alberto Nogues at their next meeting, in the United States.

Asked again about his trip to Bolivia, he said that Argentina will support all Bolivian negotiations to recover an outlet to the sea.

Foreign Minister Alejandro Rovira also termed relations between the two countries as excellent. He later explained that the objective of the two countries is to solve a given problem by sitting down at a table without any bad feelings and talking like two friends.

Referring to Uruguay's position regarding the Chilean-Argentine border conflict, he said that this is a problem he has not been able to study yet, but that he has been following it attentively by reading the newspapers and he feels that this problem must be solved between friendly governments, like two friends.

Foreign Minister Rovira arrived at Jorge Newberry airport at 1115 and was welcomed by his Argentine counterpart. At 1520 he left the same airport for his country. At all times he was accompanied by Argentine Ambassador to Uruguay Guillermo de la Plaza.

BANZER SAYS NEW PRESIDENT MAY CHOOSE TO RETIRE HIM

PY182017Y La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 14 Apr 78 pp 1, 8 PY

[Excerpts] The constitutionalization of the country next August will affect the top military leadership as a result of the power with which the new government will be invested; it will be able to either replace or confirm the commander in chief of the armed forces in his post, which is now held by Gen Hugo Banzer.

The president himself explained that situation yesterday during the first formal press conference to be called this year. "The post of commander in chief of the armed forces is subordinate to the president," he stated, explaining that he could be remcved from the post, if that was decided by the constitutional president who will be elected next 9 July.

Banzer said: "If the president-elect decides that I should continue as long as would be useful, I will not be able to refuse compliance." He admitted, however, that by that time he will be unfit to hold military command because of rules established by armed forces law. He repeated: "But in an exceptional case, the president can demand that I continue."

According to earlier statements, and if the "nationalist formula" were to retain power, the new government would keep General Banzer as its highest military leader, but that choice has now been left for the decision of the president to be elected by the people.

The president's explanations regarding the top military post were given at the 34-question press conference, held yesterday in the government palace, during which various subjects regarding the present situation of the nation were dealt with, such as elections, candidates, their access to the state communications media, particularly television, the domestic economic situation, the real prospects for a salary increase and foreign policy topics, which are reported in another article.

General Banzer confirmed once more that he has promised to vote for Gen Juan Pereda and that he will keep to the announcement he made in Santa Cruz at the beginning of the year, when the election campaign was launched for the candidate who considers himself as "the upholder of the nationalist formula."

Regarding the parties, he said that the National Council for Structural Reforms [CONARE], which functioned in 1973 and 1974, had drawn up a draft for a political parties law, and that "it will be up to the future government to study it." He expressed the opinion that the parties are not the only channels for expressing public opinion and that there are representative labor and civic organizations. He urged both to "seek points of agreement."

He announced that in the future the government will reexamine its relations with the party leaders and will cast aside the habit of deportation "which has been one of the political evils of the country." He said that it has been an exceptional measure of which he is not in favor, but that it has been used as a lesser evil.

ITC REFUSAL ON TIN PRICE INCREASE CAUSES 'DISMAY'

PY181417Y La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 16 Apr 78 p 1 PY

[Excerpts] The International Tin Council [ITC] decision to turn down a request for a price increase caused dismay in government and private mining circles and government concern over the possibility of further price declines in the wake of that decision.

For several months, particularly during the second half of 1977, the price of a fine pound of tin kept rising, to a maximum of $5.79 by year's end. Since the beginning of this year, however, the price has been sliding abruptly, to a minimum of $4.12 the day after the General Services Administration (which manages U.S. strategic stockpiles) announced its decision to sell 45,000 tons of tin on the international market.

Immediately thereafter the private mining industry charged the GSA with intending to dump antimony and silver on the international market as well.

Government and private mining sources said that the ITC decision resulted from manipulation by consuming countries during the week preceeding the ITC meeting, when they increased demands to drive up prices. Thus consuming countries could wield the argument of price fluctuations in their favor to counter the producing countries' request for a price which would insure a minimum margin of profit.

The Bolivian Government, the state-owned Mining Corporation of Bolivia, and private mining companies are afraid that the ITC decision may cause a new tin price decline which would push producing countries into plain bankruptcy. Mining experts contend that Bolivia has the highest cost for tin extraction--much more than any other country--because mines are getting depleted, because low grade overburden must be recovered, and technology, tools and equipment must be imported.

A recent report on medium-sized mining enterprises revealed that state and private companies made no more than 10 cents per fine pound when the price was $5.

BRIEFS

1977 COMIBOL INVESTMENTS--The Mining Corporation of Bolivia [COMIBOL] has reported that it invested $40,746,000 in mining operations in 1977. About $28 million was for operating costs, while the remainder was invested in equipment, machinery, material and tools. [La Paz Radio Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 12 Apr 78 PY]

CANADIAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE--Members of the Canadian delegation who began meeting yesterday with officials of the Planning and Coordination Ministry stated that Canada is ready to give technical and financial assistance to Bolivia. At the inaugural session, Antenor Santa Cruz, representative of the Planning Ministry, presented a copy of 10 projects to be implemented in 1978 and 1979. They deal with mine exploitation, social security for peasants, rural electrification, airport equipment, the Hichucota (La Paz) fishing project, a network of farming and livestock storage facilities, telecommunications, highway maintenance, port development, development of transport over the Paraguayan River and hospital equipment for Tarija. [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 7 Apr 78 p 8 PY]

HIGH-LEVEL TRADE DELEGATION TO VISIT PRC NEXT MONTH

PY171751Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 16 Apr 78 p 34 PY

[Text] Brasilia--A high-level Brazilian delegation will leave for the PRC toward the end of the coming month to negotiate, based on the trade agreement signed recently between the two countries, the purchase of petroleum and coal, and the selling of soybeans, sugar and iron ore. The delegation, made up of representatives from Itamaraty, the ministries of mines and energy, and industry and commerce, will be headed by Paulo Tarso Flexa de Lima, chief of the Itamaraty Trade Promotion Department.

The two ministries, whose preliminary tasks have already been approved by President Ernesto Geisel, have begun selection of representatives, and through Itamaraty, have begun selection of representatives, and through Itamaraty, have begun contacts for the trip. In addition to proposals for the purchase and sale of those products, the Brazilian delegation must also negotiate a solution for the problem of transport, the greatest difficult in developing trade relations between Brazil and the PRC.

This is the first Brazilian Government mission to the PRC since the two countries established diplomatic relations at embassy level in October 1974, and decided that the expansion and balance of commerce would be the major concern of the two governments.

Other Brazilian groups have visited Peking during the past few years, but the presence of Itamaraty representatives in the delegation will give the mission an unprecedented official character with the capability of establishing continuous trade between the two countries.

As is well known, the PRC is traditionally a country which bases its trade relations with other governments on the signing of a document marking the official beginning of operations. This document, in the case of Brazil, was signed in January 1978, after a year of negotiations between Brasilia and Peking.

BRITAIN OFFERS ASSISTANCE FOR BRAZIL'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM

PY171745Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 16 Apr 78 p 28 PY

[By correspondent Claudio Kuck]

[Excerpts] London--The state-owned British Nuclear Fuels Limited (BNFL) confirmed last week that early this year it officially offered assistance to Brazil for its uranium enrichment program.

That assistance would be in the form of construction of a so-called hex plant in Brazil for conversion of solid uranium oxides into uranium hexafluoride--hence the name hex plant--the initial phase of the enrichment process. The assistance will also include the transfer of all the accessory technology.

A BNFL spokesman explained that the British offer has not yet been accepted by the Brazilians, but that it seems the offer was well received, especially since it does not involve more than a few million pounds. This offer also is covered by the appropriate safeguards common in cases such as this in which no sensitive nuclear technology is involved.

This is not sensitive technology perse and its export not subject to veto by London's nuclear suppliers group or by President Carter's policy, but the British offer is greatly significant since the installation of a hex plant is appropriate only for a country which is going to enrich its own uranium fuel.

The Netherlands demands that Brazil agrees that the plutonium obtained from URENCO-supplied enriched uranium be stocked and supervised by the Netherlands, while Great Britain and the FRG contend that Brazil does not have to agree to that until the reactors provided by the FRG start operation with URENCO-supplied enriched uranium.

The British nuclear industry magazine NUCLEONICS WEEK said recently: The FRG and Great Britain should break off their partnership with the Netherlands in URENCO and enrich uranium for Brazil at Capenhurst in Great Britain or at the Gronau plant still in the planning stage in the FRG."

The hex plant offered by the BNFL to Brazil will only prepare the uranium ore for the actual enrichment process, but it is essential for obtaining fuel for most types of nuclear reactors, including that which Brazil has adopted.

The offer has the approval of the British Government and includes the transfer of technology from the British plant at Spring Fields, Lancashire, for the concentration of 5,000 tons of uranium ore initially.

In making this offer, the BNFL is competing with Eldorado Company from Canada, the Allied Chemical and Kerr-McGee companies from the United States, and the Combine Company from France. The BNFL has been successfully operating since the early 1960s and its technology is accepted worldwide.

BRITISH NUCLEAR OFFICIAL DISCUSSES FUEL SUPPLY

PY141353Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 13 Apr 78 p 8 PY

[Text] Sao Paulo--"The Brazilian nuclear agreement [with the FRG] is expensive but it may turn out to be all right. I believe that in another 5 years Brazil will be self-sufficient in raw materials for nuclear fuel; however, self-sufficiency in enriched fuel will depend on the installation of a jet-nozzle enrichment plant, and this will not be possible in less than 10 years."

This statement was made by Walter Marshall, president of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, a British Government organization for research and advice in nuclear affairs, which is in contact with the National Nuclear Energy Commission (CNEN) to receive from the latter information regarding Brazil's nuclear program.

According to Marshall, now that the Netherlands Parliament has refused to supply Brazil with uranium through URENCO, Brazil has seven options left: "The United States, which has already said no; the installation of a URENCO plant in the FRG; the utilization of ready-made fuel in England, the Soviet Union, France, or South Africa; and finally the development of a Brazilian jet-nozzle plant."

Marshall stated that the best option would be if the Netherlands Parliament reversed itself and allowed URENCO (a Netherlands-FRG-British consortium) to go on with the negotiations. "The fuel manufactured in Capenhurst, England, would be, to my understanding, the cheapest option and it is unlikely to arouse any opposition. [paragraph continues]

"To give an example, when the United States refused to supply uranium to Japan, the United Kingdom agreed to negotiate and after a swift debate in Parliament, the supply was approved."

Although the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority does not have any regulations with regard to the requirements which must be fulfilled in order to provide services to countries interested in nuclear installations, Walter Marshall's belief, "shared by many officials of the UK Government, is that we can supply enriched uranium, but we cannot transfer technology to countries which have not signed the nonproliferation treaty, and Brazil is among those countries." He also stated that the impasse created by the Netherlands' refusal should not delay Brazil's nuclear program because the initial supply of fuel for the Angra I nuclear plant has already been arranged with Westinghouse. "There is still some time to solve the problem. The construction of Angra I has gone very quickly and even if the other two plants were to be built in a short period of time, there would still be enough time to obtain the fuel."

JORNAL VIEWS ASPECTS OF U.S. NUCLEAR CONTROL LAW

PY141450Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 13 Apr 78 p 8 PY

[Text] The Brazilian Government will not be able to say for sure whether the supply of enriched uranium for Angra I under a 1972 agreement with the United States is to be affected until after entering into negotiations regarding the nonproliferation law signed on 10 March 1975 by President Carter. These negotiations can start only at the invitation of the United States. Up until now and despite circulating rumors, Brazilian experts say that there is no sufficiently precise information on that "complicated law" to allow them to make safe predictions. The new U.S. law has been thoroughly studied both by Itamaraty and other specialized government agencies, but they have been unable to do more than speculate on the possibilities. As material for such studies, the Brazilian Government has used information supplied by Brazilian embassies to Euratom countries which are the only ones with which the United States has started negotiations over applications of the U.S. nonproliferation law, but the results so far are not definite enough to permit a proper understanding of its mechanisms.

As is known, that law demands that countries with which the United States has agreements on the supply of sensitive materials or enriched uranium services must renegotiate those agreements to include new and additional safeguards and guarantees. To date, Brazil has not received any formal proposal or official communications on the new U.S. nonproliferation law, although there is a similar agreement with the United States on supply of sensitive materials. It is understood that this silence results from the need to renegotiate, due to this law, with the various countries on a priority basis. Euratom countries have agreements on this matter with the United States which are much more encompassing than the one Brazil has. According to those who have studied the new U.S. law, another reason would be that Euratom countries, although they have safeguard agreements signed with the United States and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], have their own inspectors to supervise nuclear installations where U.S.-supplied sensitive materials are used, while that supervision in Brazil is done by IAEA inspectors.

The main difficulty which the new U.S. law presents in the case of Brazil--and also in the case of France, which is a Euratom country--is that this law has mechanisms similar to those of the nonproliferation treaty [NPT] which neither Brazil nor France has signed. But, according to experts, the fact of being an NPT nonsignatory country was not taken as a disqualifying condition for renegotiation.

TOWNLEY'S LAWYER SEEKS PROSECUTION OF OFFICIALS

PY181445Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 18 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Santiago--Michael Townley's Chilean lawyer, Manuel Acuna, has announced that he is going to bring charges before the criminal court to determine the crimes of those who fulfilled the order to expel his client before his legal period for appeal had expired. Acuna noted that according to the law any public official found guilty can be sentenced to jail and suspended.

ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER REPORTS ON BORDER COMMISSION

PY181835Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 18 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Santiago--Acting Foreign Minister Enrique Valdez stated that a simultaneous declaration of approval is being jointly coordinated with the Argentine Foreign Ministry on the agreement reached by mixed commission No 1, which dealt with differences on the southern border. The two governments have already granted their approval. General Valdez added that the details, place, date and composition of the delegations which will make up commission No 2 will be established after the declaration is issued, so that they can both start their work immediately.

Asked whether those delegations will be mainly made up of military officers, General Valdez indicated that at least on the Chilean side the delegation will be represented by the Foreign Ministry.

JUNTA STUDYING WAYS TO REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT

PY190047Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2136 GMT 18 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 18 Apr--It was reported here today that the Chilean Government started an urgent study aimed at lowering unemployment levels which in the last few months surpassed 13 percent.

President Augusto Pinochet and the other members of the Chilean military junta held a meeting today with Roberto Kelly, director of the National Planning Office [ODEPLAN] to study the enforcement of these emergency measures. Kelly said that the preliminary projects should be implemented within the next 3 months.

According to local statistics, unemployment increased in Chile during the last 4 years, reaching its critical point in March 1976 when it reached 20 percent.

Roberto Kelly said that among the new measures is business activity aimed at creating new labor sources.

BRIEFS

FAMAE BOARD APPOINTED--The Official Gazette has reported that the Chilean Defense Ministry, through its War Under Secretariat, has appointed the members of the Army Ordnance [FAMAE] board. This board is headed by Brig Gen Hernan Fuenzalida, head of the army's military manufacturing command in Santiago. [Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 18 Apr 78 PY]

PRESIDENT SATISFIED WITH CANAL TREATY RATIFICATION

PA190438Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0212 GMT 19 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 18 April--President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen said here today that ratification of the Panama Canal treaties is "evidence of the U.S. good will to change its hemispheric policy."

Interviewed by the Caracol radio network on the historical decision by the U.S. Senate, the Colombian chief of state added that "I believe that the U.S. good will should not be limited to political matters alone, but should extend to commercial and financial aspects." Further on Lopez said: "I hope that during the coming months and years, the approval will have further impact on delicate matters such as protectionism toward our countries' manufactured and semimanufactured products."

Considering this event as the beginning of a new era in U.S.-Latin American relations, Lopez said: "I see it in that way, because the Carter administration has 'staked,' to use an expression, his prestige on the ratification. He has shown the world during these past few months that by means of reasoning and explanation, he could reverse the generally adverse opinion regarding the treaties' ratification."

Lopez also expressed his satisfaction over "the preservation of the main principles of international law, since it is most satisfactory that the nonintervention principle was reaffirmed in today's voting in Washington."

In conclusion, the president said: "Furthermore, this irritating thorn, the canal problem, has been satisfactorily solved, as is evident by the fact that the two treaties have been ratified with amendments which do not offend the dignity of Panama or the continent. From the Colombian point of view, we are pleased at having taken all the precautions to insure the rights we had under the Urrutia-Thompson treaties."

"I want to recall," Lopez said, "that since last November the Panama National Corregimiento Representative Assembly, which is the equivalent of a congress, or a constituent assembly, authorized the government to formalize the commitments contracted in Contadora island with Colombia and Costa Rica. These commitments substantially cover the traditional rights (transit through the canal) which we obtained from the treaty with the United States when the Canal Zone was North American and had not been incorporated under Panamanian sovereignty."

PRESIDENT DISCUSSES NONINTERVENTION IN LATIN AMERICA

PA161912Y Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1714 GMT 16 Apr 78 PA

[Speech by Colombian President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen at the ceremony for the laying of the first stone of the Jorge Eliecer Gaitan cultural center in Bogota--live]

[Excerpts] This is the site of the culture center which will show the people how Jorge Eliecer Gaitan [Colombian liberal leader assassinated on 9 April 1948], both as a thinker and as a leader, identified with his people.

I am sure that if Gaitan were alive today he would be with us in the struggle for Panama's recovery of its sovereignty. [applause]

I am moved by the memory of those days of 9 April [on 9 April 1948 Gaitain was killed and rioting broke out in Bogota] when, at the same time that the Pan-American conference was being held, within the OAS that charter which has the name of Bogota became one of the milestones on the road to condemning U.S. intervention in our countries.

What a strange coincidence. How could it happen that while we commemorate the end of unilateral intervention by the United States in our countries, a U.S. Senate amendment to the treaties which uphold Panama's autonomy and sovereignty should again seek--after 40 [as heard] years--to legally establish the U.S. right to intervene in our territories?

No, Colombians, let no foreign foot ever again be placed on the sacred soil of Latin America. [applause] No, it cannot be that today, with the excuse of assuring transit through the canal, or tomorrow with the excuse of fighting drug trafficking, or the day after in the name of human rights against one or another ideology, a nation should give itself the right of unilateral intervention.

Gaitain struggled for something else, something quite different: that if it were necessary--because it can be necessary in many circumstances--for there to be hemispheric intervention in a country, then it would be done with the consent of all, after consultation, and the OAS has the provisions for such a step.

But how can it be that, without consultation, because of a treaty, because of an amendment by a single U.S. senator, all that has been achieved from the time of the Havana conference to the last Pan-American conference--that is to say, the building of the principles that we are all equal, that no one country has more rights than the rest and that all contribute their forces to the joint defense of the hemisphere or of human rights, or to fight vices--should suddenly be dashed to pieces by a single nation because it is powerful, seeking to acquire rights without consulting its partners? [applause]

Let this house also be the house of America, the proud house, the house which reminds us of the tragic days of 9 April when the Colombian people, with the support of their brothers of Latin America, did not permit the dissolution of the hemispheric conference at which an agreement was to be made on the equal rights of all American states and the doors to intervention were to be closed forever.

At this time, which I could call tragic for the future of America, from this rostrum I ask the United States to remember how this small country, with its heart and city on fire, when hundreds of persons were dying, had the energy to maintain its determination to hold the conference--and held it in a modern gymnasium amidst immense difficulties--and left the name of Bogota stamped on a charter of rights which guarantees our right to never be intervened by a foreign power. [applause]

STUDENTS RENEW DEMONSTRATIONS AFTER QUIET WEEKEND

PA172332Y Quito La Voz de Los Andes in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpt] Street demonstrations by students protesting the high cost of living in general flared up again this morning in Quito. The relative calm observed on Saturday and Sunday in the neighborhood of the Central University was broken this morning, as slogans protesting the high cost of living were again heard, forecasting a new week of unrest in this capital.

Disturbances Continue

PA182301Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2244 GMT 18 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpts] Quito, 18 Apr (LATIN)--Rioting broke out again today in this capital as part of the student protest begun 3 weeks ago against the increase in urban transportation fares.

The military government accused university students of firing on the police from windows of a hospital where they had sought refuge after interrupting traffic and disrupting order in areas close to the Central University and the school of medicine.

A National Secretariat of Public Information communique charged this afternoon that medical students had caused serious disturbances and later sought refuge at the Eugenio Espejo Hospital from which they fired on the police.

The wave of student violence has already caused four deaths, several dozen injured, over 500 arrests and extensive property damage.

Demonstrations in Guayaquil

PA151528Y Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 15 Apr 78 PA

[Text] University students headed by the president of the Federation of Ecuadorean University Students and the president of the association of the industrial engineering school students went into the streets of Guayaquil this morning to protest against the increase in transportation fares which has caused anger among Quito students and has left a tragic toll of many wounded and hundreds arrested.

INFORMATION SECRETARY, ACTING FINANCE MINISTER NAMED

PA180434Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0158 GMT 18 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Quito, 17 Apr (EFE)--The Ecuadorean Government today appointed Carlos Ayala Roca new national secretary of public information with the rank of minister.

Carlos Ayala will be in charge of "SENDIP" (National Secretariat of Public Information), succeeding Fabian Garces, who resigned last week for personal reasons connected with his journalistic profession.

Meanwhile, the government today named Juan Reyna Santa Cruz, budget under secretary until now, acting finance minister. He replaces Santiago Sevilla who resigned recently.

PRESIDENT PEREZ EXPRESSES SATISFACTION WITH CANAL TREATY

PA190443Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 0300 GMT 19 Apr 78 PA

[Statement by President Carlos Andres Perez to the press on 19 April--recorded, place not given]

[Excerpt] I want to present some good news which has filled me with satisfaction. This is why I delayed this meeting. The news is that the U.S. Senate has ratified the second Panama Canal treaty. As you must realize, this is a triumph for Latin America. And even more significant, the United States has taken an important step toward the establishment of more balanced relations with and greater respect for the interests of Latin American countries.

GUATEMALAN VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT VISITS MINISTER CONSALVI

PA181649Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 18 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Guatemalan Vice President-Elect Francisco Villagran Kramer paid a courtesy call on Venezuelan Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi. They discussed several subjects of international interest at the meeting. When the foreign minister was asked the reason for the visit he said: The visit was a courtesy call. We have been friends since the United Nations and it is logical that he should call while in Caracas. Villagran Kramer is a well-known Guatemalan internationalist and we met several times in the United Nations.

On the topics they discussed, Consalvi said everything and nothing: We discussed all the problems which face our countries in general as well as regional problems.

BRAZILIAN ENERGY MINISTER UEKI BEGINS OFFICIAL VISIT

PA181612Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1220 GMT 18 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 18 Apr (EFE)--Brazilian Mines and Energy Minister Shigeaki Ueki arrived in Caracas on Monday for an official 4-day visit in order to negotiate an increase in Brazilian purchases of Venezuelan oil. Ueki will meet with President Carlos Andres Perez, Energy and Mines Minister Valentin Hernandez Acosta and Gen Rafael Alonzo Ravard, president of the Venezuelan Petroleum Corporation.

The Brazilian minister said that he has already met his Venezuelan counterpart in Brasilia, at which time they decided to hold another meeting in Caracas in the first half of this year. This is the meeting that will now take place.

Shigeaki Ueki reported that his country currently purchases from Venezuela an amount of oil which he termed "small." It is about 12,000 barrels a day, which he hopes will increase because Brazil imports about 850,000 barrels a day from various countries, particularly from the Middle East. He said that the size of the additional purchases will be determined during the talks with Venezuelan authorities.

The visiting minister noted that his visit is in keeping with the joint communique signed by the presidents of Brazil and Venezuela in November 1977 when Carlos Andres Perez paid an official visit to his country at the invitation of Gen Ernesto Geisel.

TORRIJOS SPEAKS TO NATION FOLLOWING TREATY RATIFICATION

PA190006Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2328 GMT 18 Apr 78 PA

[Speech by Panamanian Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos to the nation following ratification of the new Panama Canal treaty by the U.S. Senate, broadcast over a national radio and television network from the main studios of Panama City Televisora Nacional, Channel 2--live]

[Text] Panamanians: Following many decades of pressure and 13 continuous years of negotiation, the Senate has just ended an intense debate that to us represented an era of unprecedented emotional pressure. I have come here before you to tell you, as a Panamanian, that I am proud of the mission fulfilled.

What the Senate has just ratified and what we ratified in a solemn plebiscite definitely buries the treaty that was imposed on us in 1903 and brings forth, following the other, or following the body of the other, a new pact of mutual respect that has an expiration date on the colonialism established throughout our independent life in the Canal Zone.

This treaty gradually eliminates all the vestiges of colonialism, and what is even more important, what is even more important emotionally, is the disappearance in a very short while of the fifth border that was imposed on us and which sheds so much shame on the dignity of the Panamanian man. The police, living proof of the insolent vestige of dominating colonialism, will disappear in a very short while. The railroad will pass to Panamanian hands. The judges will be Panamanians, conationals, who will judge us by laws that we ourselves have enacted and which are written in our own language.

Regarding the military bases, a gradual elimination is established, as is true of the customs function. And that consumer market is going to be incorporated into our consumer market. It will consume our products, which will make it much more possible that, starting today, we will not have to...[Torrijos corrects himself] we will have a means of extricating ourselves from overproduction.

In a very short while, 1,000 square kilometers of our land will pass to our jurisdiction, 1,000 square kilometers that are next to and adjacent to the cities of Panama and Colon, cities whose expansion and development were smothered precisely by the existence of a fifth border.

On several occasions we were on the verge of rejecting this treaty. I would not have accepted that amendment with the crude, imperious and interventionist language that they wanted to impose on us. But with very good judgment I forced myself to establish a radio silence so that within the context of the two treaties, within the context of what the Senate approved, we would then be able to establish a line and determine if the treaty were sufficiently acceptable to the palate of such a nationalistic people.

This treaty places us in a position to build a new country, in a position to start the machinery of change from the Tuira to Changuinola, from Puerto Obaldia to Punta Burica; that is to say, to start the machinery of change and to provide Panamanian homes with the basics which up until today we have not been able to provide; to provide greater educational opportunities, greater economic security to Panamanian families so that they can feel that they live in a country where job opportunities are not as scarce as they are today.

We have before us a great obligation, a great commitment--a great commitment that derives precisely from the feeling of national unity that began to emerge from the solution to this problem. I am not one of those men that claim the right to authorship. I am convinced that if this were not the sum of the struggle of a generation, of a generational struggle, we would not be here today in a position to tell the Panamanian people that we are facing one of the greatest, most awaited, most discussed victories that we have achieved in our republican life.

On several occasions this treaty was on the verge of failure, and if it did not fail it was precisely because, in my feelings, in my conscience, in my inner being there was a truth that until today I was not able to express. I was not going to leave the people, I was not going to leave the people without a capacity to reply if the treaty had not been ratified.

The National Guard, together with groups of our youth, has been preparing for many years in order not to leave the people humiliated and without any capacity for reply to continue the struggle. I say this because I never considered negotiations as the only solution for our people's liberation. I could never expose the people to suffer the shame of rejection of a treaty or approval of one with amendments that were unacceptable to our dignity and then invite you collectively to go and cry like stateless persons over what we did not know how to defend as patriots.

I believe that in this decade in the country's life there has been no Panamanian who has been insulted more than I, there has been no country which has been insulted more than ours, there has been no county which has been watched more closely than we have been through those conservative voices, those voices which bring dishonor to a people who have a high level of dignity, just like the American people.

Intervention, the interventionist language has been clearly modified. It has been modified to the extent that I can tell you with the sincerity which has always been characteristic of me that nothing in the treaty legally justifies an intervention, and if nothing in the treaty legally justifies an intervention, that other type of intervention which might come as a reply to an unequal correlation of forces, this other type of intervention should not worry me or future generations. It should not worry us, first, because our people do not want intervention; second, because intervention means a violation of too many international provisions which for many decades have been consecrated in charters which all countries deeply respect; also, we have received from the Senate and President Carter a clear and emphatic expression that they will not do it and that the United States is a country which is backing away from intervention [viene de regreso hacia las intervensiones].

Finally, what has always given me the greatest reassurance is that those who can best defend the canal are ourselves, the Panamanians. The Panamanians are the ones who can best defend the canal because it is we who can at a given moment destroy it, and he who can destroy it and does not destroy it is defending it. This capacity to destroy the canal is a capacity which the armed forces, together with future generations, should never renounce.

The country has been subjected to tremendous pressures. We have been subjected to the limitations which have caused our economic growth to stop precisely because at a given moment our 78,000 square kilometers--we had to admit it--could be turned into an area of liberation, an area in which a people tired of not finding an answer were going to find an answer by themselves. We have been subjected to a number of pressures.

And it is only fair to say it. Now that there is a deep sense of national unity, as of now, that is as of today, all political exiles can return to the country without distinction of any kind or precondition of any kind.

This is only just, gentlemen, and if it were not done before, it was precisely due to the fear that they would ignite the spark for liberation before the precise hour which had already been predetermined.

I also want to take advantage of this opportunity, of this great moment, in which there is a solid concept of national unity, and now that there are no winners or losers, to solemnly declare that we are going to establish the bases, principles and methods of consultation that will regulate the existence of political parties. These parties ought to be the strong and organized expression of different trends of thought. We have never been afraid of them. We have always been inclined to believe that a popular power with a strong legislative capacity and mechanisms to allow participation of political parties--a new era for political parties--can be initiated. I am talking about a sort of second edition of political parties in which different trends of thought participate in genuinely promoting changes, better distributing society's wealth and consolidating our national independence.

Panamanians, I am going to tell you a big secret that I have kept for a long time. My calm attitude stemmed from it despite all the problems we went through. Neither General Torrijos nor the National Guard staff ever thought about starting renegotiations if the treaties were not ratified today under honorable terms; we never considered doing this. We realized that a renegotiation would have meant forcing future generations to repeat the same shameful route we experienced, only to have the same result: the denial of our sovereignty. I know perfectly well, because of my political experience, that we often have to decide in life between dignity or ignominy and long ago we made the decision for dignity.

In the early hours of 19 April, a new era in the life of the country was to be decided. We were going to decide what path of liberation to take. "H" hour was decided. It would have been the decision of a person who is convinced that he has faith in something. I realized that I could not leave this problem to future generations. I did not want them to go through the same moments of shame I went through.

I firmly believe that, when all paths for peaceful negotiations are closed to a nation, those who are in power have no other alternative than to take the path of violence for liberation. Therefore, we were planning on reinitiating another period of struggle early tomorrow morning.

Finally, listen well, those men--they know to whom I am referring--never was a commander more proud of subordinates, of his men, of their capability, of their will to struggle as the commander who is addressing you at this moment, many thanks. [applause]

TORRIJOS NEWS CONFERENCE ON TREATIES' RATIFICATION

PA190207Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0027 GMT 18 Apr 78 PA

[Press conference held by Panamanian Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos at the Panama City Holiday Inn hotel--live]

[Text] [Question] Ernesto Rodriguez Medina of NOTICIERO 24 HORAS, Colombia. Now that the U.S. Senate has ratified the treaties, we would like you to tell Colombians, upon opening this press conference, what feelings Panama has toward our country, which has struggled alongside Panama.

[Answer] Colombia, the Colombian people through Lopez Michelsen were frontline militants in this struggle for our liberation. For the Colombian people and government, I have nothing but great appreciation.

[Question] Martin Pacheco of Venezolana de Television, Caracas. Logically support from the Venezuelan president and Latin America were decisive in this struggle carried out by the Panamanian people and yourself. Do you at this time feel personally triumphant or do you believe that this was a Latin American victory?

[Answer] I feel that a majority in the Senate understood that the Panamanian problem was a hemispheric one and that the best solution was a negotiated solution, as the only way of guaranteeing a peaceful, [word indistinct] trouble-free and nondiscriminatory transit through the canal.

[Question] Jorge (Natheson) of the Public Broadcasting System, United States. The opinion has been expressed here by some Panamanian lawyers that the treaty as originally modified [as heard] by Panama has been modified by the Senate amendments and that it will now be necessary to hold another plebiscite. How do you feel about this?

[Answer] But we are not thinking in terms of a plebiscite. Either we accepted the treaty or not. The treaty is acceptable as it stands. Now we shall be alert so that what has been agreed on will not be violated.

[Question] Silvio (Botgerra) of JORNAL DO BRAZIL. Will you explain what you meant in your speech when you said that the liberation struggle was to begin on the morning of the 19th?

[Answer] The armed forces had decided that if the treaty was rejected, or amended with unacceptable conditions, we were not going to negotiate any more. In the early morning hours, we would have started a liberation struggle and possibly by tomorrow the canal would not have been in operation.

[Question] Channel 11 of Argentine television. General Torrijos, we would like you to clarify the concept that you are the best defenders of the canal because you are the ones who could destroy it.

[Answer] We are capable of destroying the canal, in spite of the Southern Command or the Western Command or the Eastern Command or any other command. The National Guard can destroy the canal and we do not intend to lose the capability. Therefore, if we do not destroy it, we are the ones defending it. This is why we are not very much concerned about the bravado and machismo and disrespect for the dignity of other peoples expressed in the Senate. The canal was two votes away from being disrupted. This was a well-thought-out decision and we have been preparing for this for the past 10 years. Would you as a Latin American have been proud of us? What is your answer? [the newsman answers: "Perfectly"]

[Question] [Words indistinct] of ABC. How can the United States intervene militarily in Panama to maintain the canal's neutrality without intervening in Panama's domestic affairs?

[Answer] They can intervene, but they will find a destroyed canal, so it cannot defend the canal. They are 4 to 6 hours away and during this time the canal could be damaged so badly it would take 6 months to repair. This is the Arab thesis: If they are invaded, they will set fire to the oil wells. If we are invaded we shall destroy the canal.

[Question] Do you accept the treaties without any reservations?

[Answer] We would not have accepted it if the DeConcini reservation had not been modified. I did not want to be the chief of state who legalized and signed the permit justifying the first intervention in the 21st century. This would have been a great dishonor and I would have renounced it.

[Question] General, the treaty ratified today ends in the year 2000. The neutrality treaty with the DeConcini reservation is a permanent treaty. Therefore, I ask, are you thinking of negotiating a new neutrality treaty?

[Answer] No, since the armed forces will never lose the capacity to destroy the canal.

[Question] [Words indistinct].

[Answer] Yes. We believe, and this is one of the orders passed by word of mouth from one officer to another, that intervention is no longer necessary because we shall never lose the capability to destroy the canal or block traffic. Then we would give its destruction as a reply.

[Question] Raul Cedeno of RPC television. Under these conditions, to what factor would you accord greater importance: the legal aspects that arise or may arise from the amendments and reservations introduced or the best interests of the republic contained in the documents that were ratified today?

[Answer] We can live with this treaty. It is proper. But in a colonial situation, do not mention the word legal to me when speaking of a colonial situation. No book, no jurist in the world has been able to prove that colonialism is legal.

Now I would like to thank you. I am here because I am very indulgent with you. You have all been very understanding of the Panamanian cause. Thank you very much.

FOREIGN MINISTRY ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON SENATE RESERVATION

PA191258Y Panama City Radio Exitosa in Spanish 1120 GMT 19 Apr 78 PA

[Panamanian Foreign Ministry communique issued 18 April 1978--read by announcer]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry informs the Panamanian nation that the U.S. Senate approved a reservation to the Panama Canal treaty today which spells out the powers [facultades] that the U.S. Government will have in line with the Torrijos-Carter treaties. The reservation says: Senate resolution. 18 April 1978. In accordance with its adherence to the principle of nonintervention, any action taken by the United States of America in the exercise of its rights to insure that the Panama Canal will remain open, neutral, secure and accessible in keeping with the provisions of this treaty and the neutrality treaty and the resolutions of advice and consent referring to them will have the sole purpose of insuring that the canal will remain open, secure, accessible and will not have the purpose or be interpreted as the right to intervene in the domestic affairs of the Republic of Panama or interfere in its political independence or its sovereignty.

This reservation clearly expressed the reaffirmation that the United States makes to Panama of principles of international law, accepted by that country in several international conventions including:

1. Article 8 of the treaty on rights and duties of states signed during the Seventh Inter-American Conference held in Montevideo, Uruguay, in 1933 which reads that no state has the right to intervene in the domestic or foreign affairs of another.

2. Article 2, point 4 of the UN Charter, signed in San Francisco in 1945 which reads that the members of the organization in their international relations will refrain from resorting to threats or the use of force against the territorial integrity or the political independence of any state or any other means incompatible with UN goals.

3. Article 18 of the OAS Charter signed during the Ninth Inter-American Conference held in Bogota, Colombia, in April 1948 which reads that no state or group of states has the right to intervene directly or indirectly for whatever reason in the domestic or foreign affairs of another. This principle excludes not only the use of armed forces but also any other means of interference or intent to harm the state or the political, economic and cultural elements that comprise it.

After studying the transcribed U.S. Senate resolution, the national government declares that it accepts it as an assurance and solemn guarantee on the part of the United States of America that it does not harbor any intentions to take the implementation of the treaties as a reason, pretext or excuse for any attempt or action which in any way will cause, involve or mean disregarding, threatening, attacking or violating the fundamental rights of the Republic of Panama as a sovereign and independent state or that it does not have any purposes or involve attempts to intervene in the domestic or foreign affairs of the Republic of Panama or to limit or undermine its political independence or harm its territorial integrity or diminish [menguar] its sovereignty.

The national government states definitively that this declaration constitutes an unchanging and permanent pattern of conduct as far as it refers to the implementation of the treaties and, therefore, at all times the Republic of Panama will react firmly and with determination to any expression, purpose or attempt to implement the provisions concerning innocent, nondiscriminatory passage through the canal and its neutrality, security and access in any way or sense that might affect the political independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Panama.

The Panamanian Government feels that it is dutybound on this occasion to reiterate its recognition and gratitude to all the peoples and governments that lent their support to it during the difficult times of the negotiation which is concluding. It also feels it is just to give special mention to the peoples and governments of Latin America which formed a solid front in support of the Panamanian cause and which were present at the OAS headquarters on the evening of 7 September 1977 during the ceremony in which the canal treaties were signed by the President of the United States of America, Mr Jimmy Carter, and the chief of Government of Panama, Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera.

Finally, the Panamanian Government recognizes the interest with which the OAS members followed the course of the negotiating process and understands their just concern over certain reservations, conditions and understandings approved by the U.S. Senate and that it would accept any inter-American action which bears witness to the fact that the collective interpretation of the principles of respect for the sovereignty, independence and legal equality of the American states has not been impaired or that the inter-American system of rights and duties of the states which has been so laboriously established over many decades has not been changed.

[signed] The Foreign Ministry

STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST TREATIES CONTINUE

Protest Staged at Foreign Ministry

PA181556Y Panama City Radio Exitosa in Spanish 1534 GMT 18 Apr 78 PA

[Live reportage from Radio Exitosa mobile unit]

[Text] This is a report directly from the Panamanian Foreign Ministry where a group of students is staging a protest. Some of the placards the students are carrying state: With or without imperialist amendments, we reject the treaties. The university students from various student organizations have gathered today in front of the Foreign Ministry to express their protest against the Panama Canal treaty amendments.

I must stress that there is large number of students gathered here. As a result of a tour through various points of Panama City today, we can report that National Guardsmen are guarding the U.S. Embassy. However, no students are protesting there. The National Guardsmen are just guarding the embassy. At this time, the student group is demonstrating in front of the Foreign Ministry. Right now, one of the students is making a speech. You can hear the slogans being shouted. [slogans indistinct]

We will continue reporting from our mobile unit throughout the day. We will be interviewing the public about their views on the approval of the Panama Canal treaties.

More on Foreign Ministry Demonstration

PA181602Y Panama City Radio Exitosa in Spanish 1550 GMT 18 Apr 78 PA

[Live reportage from Radio Exitosa mobile unit at Panamanian Foreign Ministry]

[Text] Some of the students demonstrating here have told us that they will go to Santa Ana Park where another rally will be held. A short time ago, students from the national institute arrived here to join the university students. They will all go to Santa Ana Park where a rally will be held.

Rally at Santa Ana Park

PA181645Y Panama City Radio Exitosa in Spanish 1620 GMT 18 Apr 78 PA

[Live reportage from Radio Exitosa mobile unit at Santa Ana Park]

[Text] Dear listeners, once again this is a report from our mobile unit which is at Santa Ana Park where, as we previously reported, students from the university and the national institute are arriving. They had previously been picketing the Foreign Ministry. The demonstration, which includes a large number of students, has arrived at this time at Santa Ana Park where they will hold a rally to protest the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

"With or without amendments, no to the treaties," states one of the placards carried by the students. The students are gathering to hold a rally at the democratic Santa Ana Park which, as its name indicates, has been the site of many protest rallies. Another placard states: "Washington"--the large number of students is blocking our view.

At this time, the rally is beginning. A university student is addressing the students and the large number of people here. Some of the people were probably waiting for the demonstration, others were probably shopping in the Central Avenue stores. It is important to note that the stores in the area have closed for security reasons. All the stores near Santa Ana Park have closed, waiting for the students to end their rally for rejection of the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

FEP LEADER URGES REFLECTION, CONTINUING STRUGGLE

PA190234Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0107 GMT 19 Apr 78 PA

[Statement by Mario Panther, secretary general of the Federation of Panamanian Students (FEP), at 5 May Plaza in Panama City following ratification of the new Panama Canal treaty by the U.S. Senate--recorded]

[Text] We want to extend a greeting to all our people and to explain that our presence at the 5 May Plaza is aimed at contributing to the patriotic theme of holding this rally. We are responding as usual with slogans of struggle and with the understanding that the victory, this initial victory, belongs to our people and that it cannot be seen as the end of the struggle, by no means.

We know that from this moment on the imperialist plotting, the domestic conspiracy of the oligarchs and the submissive bourgeoisie and their counterrevolutionary gangs in Panama, is going to continue developing.

Therefore, this moment must be a moment of reflection in order to consolidate, to continue consolidating, the political organization of our people, the unity of all popular organizations and the alliance of all patriotic forces because the struggle is not over.

In any event, our commitment must be the final expulsion of all colonialist presence in our country before the year 2000. This must be our people's commitment tonight at this rally at 5 May Plaza while we await the greetings and words of the leader of this struggle, he who has led our people to this initial victory. This is the message from the Federation of Panamanian Students.

MARIO VELASQUEZ COMMENTS ON TREATY RATIFICATION

PA190630Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0427 GMT 19 Apr 78 PA

[Commentary by Televisora Nacional news director Mario Velasquez at end of the "Enfoques" program]

[Text] Most of the senators who voted in favor of the treaty consider the result of the voting as a victory for the Senate, the United States and President Carter. However, an NBC reporter who interviewed several senators tonight said that the victory was obtained in spite of Carter, not because of him. In some respects, this opinion on the final result of the long debate on the treaties is due to the fact that in the final days, the negotiations between the leaders of the Senate and the Panamanian Government to reach an agreement--which in this case was possible by the leadership amendment--was taken out of the hands of the men in the White House and placed in the expert hands of Senators Robert Byrd, Frank Church, Paul Sarbains and Alan Cranston. Let us also mention the extraordinary task carried out by Democratic Senators Robert Byrd and Frank Church.

As a Panamanian, I was deeply moved in listening to Senator Church participate on several occasions throughout today's debate in defense of the treaties. He did so with intelligence and ability, particularly in defending the leadership amendment which the Senate approved with the knowledge and approval of the Panamanian Government. The leadership amendment guaranteed the success of this long process, and saved the basic aspect of the treaties signed by Carter and Torrijos on 7 September last year in Washington.

It is very easy to detect the emotional state and interest which the issue of the Panama Canal treaties provoked in this country. This same emotional state, which was often distorted by a series of factors of diverse origin, to some extent was an obstacle to a solution and an element which contributed to this drawn out public and senatorial debate, which has been wearisome in many ways.

It is worth mentioning that a strong campaign of pressure on the part of the liberal sector of the U.S. community--represented by the great press and television of that country--which criticized DeConcini's reservation and took over the task of pointing out that the reservation was a rewording of U.S. interventionist policy, a policy which was believed to have been overcome, contributed to a large extent to the change carried out in the Senate that opened the possibility of approving an amendment which would save the treaties. The reaction of Panamanian public opinion, which rejected DeConcini's reservation, and the decision of the Panamanian Government to denounce this reservation before the governments of the world, also contributed to this change, with the government tactically reserving for itself the position of not announcing its final decision until after the voting on the second treaty.

What the approval of this leadership amendment represents must be evaluated in the context of the Senate's political reality, the state of the spirit of U.S. public opinion, and the fact that we have been negotiating with the most powerful nation in the world. The approval of this amendment, which has been a display of ability on the part of those who handled the issue in the Senate, has permitted the Panamanian Government to accept the treaties and to clear the dark clouds hovering over the nation's skies. I feel that we Panamanians have good reason to feel satisfied with what we have obtained. This does not mean that we can abandon the historic struggle which we still have ahead of us. We must continue to struggle so that if in the future those treaties do not respond to the country's legitimate interests, then this can be corrected by other generations who will be in charge of perfecting the historic task which this generation and this government are concluding tonight.

RPC TELEVISION EDITORIAL ON CANAL TREATIES VOTE

PA1907l4Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 19 Apr 78 PA

[Station editorial]

[Text] As long as the gloom of an arctic night was the length of the Panamanian people's wait for the sight of the first ray of justice that has finally reached us on this historic 18 April 1978. On this date, the Panamanian people have finally seen their desperate demand for justice receive a reply, with the broad sense of understanding which emanated from 68 members of the U.S. Senate, senators who became multiple receiving antennas and intercepted the signal of Panama's permanent truth.

The main treaty of the two that form the document by which our country recovers total sovereignty over all of its territory has just been ratified. This treaty assures the world that the Panama Canal is going to be a route of reciprocal friendship for, toward and from all the peoples of the world.

It is possible, we would like to stress, barely possible, that in the light of a harsh juridical analysis, the document which the U.S. Senate ratified in the late afternoon of 18 April 1978 does not include all the aspects of the patriotic intentions, their extension and projection, which led Panamanians to sign, through General Torrijos, the documents that became the hope and joy of the entire continent and received the approval of the majority of the world. However, it is unquestionable that this treaty, even if it did not reflect that firm stand, does include, contain and outline without a doubt the means to eliminate such negative concepts as the infamous perpetuity of the 1903 treaty; does gradually place into Panamanian hands the administration, maintenance and conservation of the canal; and does perfect our nation's independence along the longed-for paths of dignity, far above simple convenience.

It is worthwhile at this moment of justified mass rejoicing to devote a quick thought or two to the profound consideration which should be given to:

1. The upright stand of generations of Panamanians who always held aloft the banner of our youthful [as heard] concerns;

2. The recognition that should be awarded to the men who in our recent past drew up the instructions for and set the coordinates toward which our present patriotism and strategy should, and did, sail;

3. The enormous civic courage of U.S. President Jimmy Carter and the majority of the members of the Senate who placed their firm concepts of justice and dignity before the transitory search for political supporters;

4. The attitude of Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera, whose upright behavior is on a par with his broad understanding of the historic moment he has just experienced as the chief of government of this nation, and which is evidenced by the public commitment to encourage the return to the fatherland of the Panamanians in exile and to allow once again the activities of political parties that truly represent popular opinion.

Still within the limits of these guidelines, RPC television accords a top position to the president of the republic, Demetrio Basilio Lakas, whose efforts to moderate the diverse trends of national public opinion and whose wide-ranging activities contributed greatly to the victory we celebrate today. Above all, we give recognition to the people of Panama who, with their civic spirit and calmness, overcame the obstacles that arose to prevent the victory of their cause and who contributed to the end of a despair that now has a definite expiration date of 22 years, a brief period compared to the unlimited perpetuity of the old treaty.

SOCIAL DEMOCRATS ISSUE STATEMENT REJECTING TREATIES

PA181842Y Panama City Radio Mia Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Apr 78 PA

[Statement by Panamanian Social Democratic Party dated 18 April 1978--read by announcer]

[Text] Consistent with Point Three of the Declaration of Principles of the Panamanian Social Democratic Party which says textually that our democratic ideal compels us to reject any form of foreign domination and thus our position is one of struggle against the aggression or exploitation of any nation, the Panamanian Social Democrats want to state, as we did during the plebiscite held in October 1977, that we firmly repudiate the treaties that are currently being debated in the U.S. Senate as a shameful mockery and humiliation of the Republic of Panama.

Yankee imperialism and its allies in Panama are again trying to enslave our people by subjecting them to tutelage under the Pentagon umbrella, thus disregarding the heroic feats that Panamanians accomplished in 1925, 1947 and 1964, as well as their rejection of the 1967 Johnson-Robles agreements. Generation after generation, the Panamanian people have struggled for the return to national sovereignty of the strip of land known as Canal Zone which imperialism keeps as a colonial enclave in the very heart of our land.

Many have fallen in this struggle and many others still have scars that prevent them from forgetting the fierceness of the invading army against a defenseless people that called for justice for their cause during those fateful days of January 1964. But neither the sophisticated weaponry of imperialism nor the rifles of the Panamanian National Guard will bring Panamanians to accept the colonialist status that these interventionist treaties are trying to impose on us.

The Panamanian Social Democrats urge worthy Panamanian men and women to close ranks in opposition to the regrettable intentions of those who want to see Panama turned into a Yankee protectorate and to struggle together until we achieve the democratization of the republic.

It is the duty of all those who felt that Panama is above selfish personal and commercial interests to safeguard our sovereignty. The anguishing economic situation that the country is experiencing as a result of the poor official administration, squandering, bureaucracy, the multimillion [no currency specified] loans that drown us, and so forth are no excuse to approve treaties that belie Panama's sacred right to decide its own destiny.

The Panamanian Social Democrats hope to live in a society that is based on the principles of political, economic, social and international democracy. Therefore, we say "here" during the national day of struggle to prevent this new mockery of the legitimate aspirations of the Panamanian people which will force the new generations to live in their own country as subjects of a foreign power.

No to such ignominy. No to the interventionist treaties. No to hateful perpetuity. No to colonialism. No to Monroe and yes to Bolivar.

Panama, 18 April 1978.

[signed] The Panamanian Social Democratic Party

JOURNALISTS UNION REJECTS TREATY AMENDMENTS

PA181718Y Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 18 Apr 78 pp 56, 10 PA

[Resolution No 4 of the Journalists Union of Panama dated 17 April 1978]

[Text] Whereas:

1. The U.S. Senate seeks to condition the ratification of the Torrijos-Carter treaties on amendments ensuring the U.S. right to intervene in the internal affairs of Panama under the pretext of guaranteeing the operation of the interoceanic waterway.

2. The Panamanian people through a national plebiscite accepted the treaties signed in Washington on September 7, 1977, convinced that it was the most that could be achieved in this negotiating phase from the North American power.

3. The amendments approved by the U.S. Senate constitute a mockery of the will of our people. In view of such U.S. imperialist maneuvers, the Panamanian Journalists maintain their position to firmly reject the neocolonialist designs of these amendments, as proclaimed by the Fifth National Journalists Congress.

Resolves:

1. To firmly reject the maneuvers of the U.S. Senate which constitute nonrecognition of our sovereignty and seek to guarantee the U.S. intervention rights in our territory.

2. To demand that the national government reject the amendments that threaten Panamanian territorial integrity and the political, economic, social and cultural independence of our nation, and to demand from the U.S. Senate a final clarification in the Torrijos-Carter treaties banning all types of intervention in Panamanian territory.

3. To maintain calm but firm vigilance and call on our fellow countrymen to make responsible use of their rights as citizens toward a solution that will bolster our national liberation efforts, the recovery of our main natural resource and the consolidation of our independence.

Given in the City of Panama on 17 April 1978.

[Signed] Ivan Zurita, secretary general of the Board of Directors

INTELLECTUALS, PROFESSIONALS REJECT AMENDMENTS IN RESOLUTION

PA181745Y Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 18 Apr 78 p 8 PA

[Resolution of national rejection of the amendments dated 14 April 1978]

[Text] Those who endorse this resolution, Panamanians of various trades and of different political and ideological positions, aware of the serious historic moment our country is going through and also aware of the serious responsibility that weighs on all Panamanians at this hour, whereas:

1. As a result of the negotiations held between Panama and the United States of America to draft treaties concerning the interoceanic canal that crosses our territory, the Panamanian nation is experiencing the most dramatic, crucial and decisive moment of its republican life.

2. The various reservations which the U.S. Senate has made to "the Treaty Concerning the Permanent Neutrality and Operation of the Panama Canal" constitute a serious injury to our existence as a state by attacking in a most ostensible and humiliating manner its sovereignty.

3. The various reservations which the U.S. Senate has made to the above-mentioned treaty constitute, in addition, the most outrageous insult to our national dignity.

4. The above-mentioned reservations confirm, once again, the colonialist and interventionist spirit upheld by the U.S. Government throughout the negotiating process.

5. Efforts are observed designed to disguise the colonialist and interventionist nature of the amendments in order to obtain their approval from the Panamanian Government.

6. The reservations and various interpretations which the U.S. negotiators and government officials are giving the treaties leave no doubt as to the colonialist and interventionist significance the U.S. Government attributes to said documents.

Resolves:

1. To strongly reject all reservations made by the U.S. Senate, as they attack the essence of our existence as a state and constitute a serious offense to our national dignity.

2. To demand that the national government reject the reservations and renounce every effort to hide the colonialist and interventionist nature of said reservations.

3. To call on all forces of the country to publicly express their repudiation of the reservations.

4. To demand an official rejection of the reservation, as well as to continue the struggle on the basis of the authentically nationalist positions of the Panamanian people.

Panama, 14 April 1978

[signed] Dr Carlos Bolivar Pedreschi, Dr Cesar A. Quintero, Dr Julio Linares, Dr Humberto E. Ricord, Dr Aura E. Guerra de Villallaz, Prof Rogelio Sinan, Prof Maria Berenice Ruiz, Dr Julio Arroyo C., Dr Rafael E. Moscote, Dr Angel Lopez Casis, Dr Gustavo Mendes Pereira, Dr Antonio Gonzalez Revilla, Prof Miguel Mejia Outary, Dr Julio Pinilla Ch., Dr Ricardo A. Alfaro, Prof Emilio Clare, engineer Roberto Reyna, Pedro Cedeno, Jorge Conte Porras, Dr Camilo O. Perez, Prof Franz Garcia de Paredes, Dr Daniel Bravo, Marco Sucre Calvo, Juan Ruiz, Prof Aristides Martinez Ortega, Prof Fernando Navas, Prof Raul Moran, Prof Roberto Carrizo, Prof Alberto McKay, Prof Abraham Bell, Dr Manuel Octavio Sisnett, and others

REJECTION VOICED AGAINST PROPOSED ATTACKS ON CANAL TARGETS

PA150223Y Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 13 Apr 78 pp 11A, 8A PA

[Article by Miguel Montiel: "No to the Ultraleftism of Nathaniel Mendez"]

[Text] How right Lenin was when he described the lieft (read extreme left) as a "childhood disease." How true it is also that "it is very easy to be a revolutionary when one is 20 years old, but it is very difficult to be a revolutionary for 20 years." This is because only an aware and constant militancy, and not improvisation, can give the revolutionaries the responsibility to weigh each of their ideals and concrete political actions. These actions do not affect them alone, but also a large number of men and women who may die following a mistaken strategy or tactic. These concepts have compelled us to refer to the open letter published in Linea Directa in MATUTINO of 12 April and signed by Nathaniel R. Mendez.

A large portion of your letter deals with the Torrijos-Carter treaties approved by the plebiscite. In this respect, Mr Mendez, we would like to say that you have entered late into the debate. We have publicly expressed our opinion on the treaties, describing them as "good although not the best." This opinion is shared by Vietnam, Fidel Castro and a large number of socialist countries. You have been and are against these treaties. Do you realize that you are in agreement with the extreme rightist sector of the U.S. Senate? This is the dialectic of opposing attitudes. Regarding the Torrijos-Carter treaties, we have no intention of resuming the debates about them. [paragraph continues]

This is precisely, Mr Mendez, the tactic used by those who oppose the treaties to confuse the people. In our last article we warned against this strategy which tends to return to a debate that which was already decided by popular vote. Once again, and taking you as a concrete example, we must warn against this tactic tending to channel our just rejection of the DeConcini reservation toward a rejection of the treaties approved in the plebiscite. Please do not confuse the two things.

On the other hand, it is true that capitalism is in a crisis, but this fact does not justify your attitude in any way.

The general capitalist crisis does not eliminate the very important and peculiar characteristics of each country within the system. Therefore, Mr Mendez, the crisis in Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Nicaragua and other countries is not the same crisis we have in Panama. Here lies the gist of the problem. From the extreme-leftist point of view, the differences existing between countries forming part of the same system do not exist; they disappear as if by magic. Your analysis lacks historical perspective and, in practice leads to the conclusion that Chile and Panama are the same thing, that there is no difference between Nicaragua and Panama, and that everything is the same in Argentina and Panama. According to the extreme left, Pinochet, Videla, Somoza and Torrijos are the same thing. Let us remember how dearly the Chilean people are paying in their present situation caused in part by the shortsightedness of the extreme left during the Allende regime. The extreme left would play along with the oligarchs and imperialists and all those who, for example, lift the banner of the "defense of democratic rights" presenting Panama as if it were Chile, Nicaragua or Argentina. The people, Mr Mendez, know that this is not true. Therefore, they do not fall for this lie. When you propose "a new government leadership," you reveal your ultimate goal in all of this--the ouster of General Torrijos from the government. To favor who, Mr Mendez? Precisely the oligarchy. This is the dialectic of contradictions. We say now what we said in our previous article: This process needs the same leadership, that of General Torrijos.

Let us refer now to the portion deserving our greater attention because of the unbelievable irresponsibility it involves. Mr Mendez, no piece of paper will ever make this country a U.S. protectorate. One can think like that only when one has never demonstrated in the streets, when one has never confronted bullets and rifle butts, or when one has not been a revolutionary. Only then can one think that a piece of paper can turn us into a protectorate. But when one has fought in the streets with the people against the oligarchy and imperialism, one knows that this will never happen and that any U.S. intervention in Panama will find us fighting in the streets.

The struggle for national liberation attained some goals with the treaties approved in the plebiscite, not all our goals, but some which are very important. Therefore, under no conditions should we give up these conquests without previously exhausting every possiblity. Therefore, if we can confront the DeConcini reservation by legal means, why not do it? Why should we not exhaust every diplomatic recourse using every legal means to defeat the DeConcini reservation? Your reasons for not doing it lack validity. As a matter of fact, you do not give any reasons. On the contrary, you, in the most irresponsible manner, propose a series of actions which we must reject at once and warn the people against falling for them. Mr Mendez, saying at these movements that "we must promote political strikes, demonstrations and marches, in and out of the Canal Zone, we must promote the illegal invasion of territory and installations in the Canal Zone and in the last recourse we must carry out paramilitary operations at commando level against political and military objectives in the Canal Zone" is nothing more than what Lenin called "playing at revolution."

At a time like this when we must make use of all our patience, all our capacity to reply so that we choose the best actions, you irresponsibly and without thinking propose that we run amuck. You must realize that what is at stake are the lives of thousands of Panamanian students. One cannot play with these lives, nor do revolutionaries grow wild; it takes a lot of work to make one.

In conclusion, in considering the participation of bourgeois sectors in a national liberation struggle, you are making a serious mistake when you consider, as is evident in your text, that this struggle is honogeneous. On the contrary, it is heterogenous and very contradictory. It implies alliances with classes or between sectors which, mutually antagonistic, walk together under certain circumstances such as those imposed by a national liberation struggle. For example, we have the Vietnamese struggle against the imperialist aggressor which was waged by a front which included bourgeois sectors. The struggle was not in favor of "a socialist revolution" but "for the country's organization," for a "neutral Vietnam," and other things.

For all these reasons, Mr Mendez, we reject your opinions regarding the "new united struggle." We repeat our appeal to the people not to fall in the trap of rejecting "on the rebound" the treaties as a whole, when we should reject the DeConcini reservation. We must use all our resources and efforts in the search for a formula (perhaps legal, perhaps not) which will rid us of the reservation. We insist, and, this is the only thing on which we agree, that there is a need for a new economic policy.

With this we conclude our reply to your open letter.

COSTA RICA

ODUBER CONGRATULATES PANAMA ON TREATY RATIFICATION

PA190214Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 0108 GMT 19 Apr 78 PA

[Statement by Costa Rican President Daniel Oduber from San Jose, Costa Rica, on ratification of Panama Canal treaties--recorded]

[Text] Since last week, we have been in close contact with Panama and with the presidents who went to Bogota and Contadora in 1975. Panama's victory is a victory for all Latin America. We feel happy to be able to share it with our Panamanian brothers.

The final amendment introduced today in the Senate eliminated the dangerous imperialist character of another amendment introduced during the debate of the first treaty. Now that it has been made clear that what was being defended was the nonintervention principle, Panama's dignity and the legal rights of nations also was defended.

As Costa Ricans, we also must celebrate the fact that under the new canal treaty, Costa Rican ships and cargo in a short time will have free transit through the Panama Canal. This will permit us to increase our activities along the Pacific coast and send our products to the Caribbean area without having to pay canal tolls. Although it cannot be estimated at this time, I think it is going to have tremendous importance in the future. I wish on behalf of my people and government to send the Panamanian people a fraternal and enthusiastic salute for the honesty, calmness and patriotism they demonstrated in this struggle.

EL SALVADOR

PEASANTS LEAVE OCCUPIED EMBASSIES

PA182250Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2132 GMT 18 Apr 78 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 18 Apr (AFP)--The 271 peasants who had occupied the cathedral of San Salvador and the Costa Rican, Panamanian, Venezuelan and Swiss embassies, left today. The evacuation occurred after negotiations with the Salvadoran Red Cross and the ambassadors of the affected countries. At the same time, another group of 35 discontented peasants occupied the Church of the Calvary in the commercial center of San Salvador.

GUATEMALA

ABUNDIO MALDONADO DECLARED MAYOR-ELECT

PA181610Y Guatemala City Radio Fabulosa Network in Spanish 1220 GMT 18 Apr 78 PA

[Text] After the most controversial and disputed election for mayor ever held in Guatemala, Col Abundio Maldonado was declared the new Guatemala City mayor by the Electoral Council yesterday. Abundio Maldonado received a total of 36,102 votes as opposed to 35,188 votes for Gonzalo (Yurrita) cuestas.

The result of the voting was officially announced by the Electoral Council shortly before 1900 when Col Abundio Maldonado (Gularte) was declared mayor-elect. Father Jose Maria Ruiz Furlan came in third.

The new mayor, who will succeed Leonel (Ponce Roleug), will take office on 15 June. The capital city hall has been facing a crisis which began last week and has not yet been solved. An emergency labor committee called a strike demanding pay raises. The current officials have made all efforts to solve the conflict but the situation has not yet been normalized. However, certain offices returned to work yesterday. The new mayor will begin his work with difficult problems, particularly due to the lack of financial resources.

HONDURAS

NEGOTIATOR MINIMIZES IMPORTANCE OF ARMS PURCHASE

PA182006Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1638 GMT 18 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 18 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Cesar Batres, the main negotiator in the conflict with El Salvador, said over the Voz de Honduras radio station this morning that "the announcement that the Honduran Army will buy additional war material in Europe cannot justify an impasse in negotiations with El Salvador."

In this way, Batres, who is an adviser to Honduran Chief of State Juan Alberto Melgar Castro, answered Salvadoran suggestions that peace negotiations between both nations would be delayed because of the Honduran decision to buy military vehicles from England.

Batres added that the modernization of the armed forces "is a right of every modern state and should not and cannot disturb anyone at any time."

Batres noted that in the past, when Honduran and Salvadoran negotiators discussed border differences in Mexico City, El Salvador announced the massive purchase of arms for its army and this did not cause a break in negotiations.

The chief of state's adviser also said that the purchase of arms does not imply on Honduras' part a belligerent attitude toward neighboring countries, adding that "the equipment is of a defensive character."

He went on to say that the military government has clearly expressed its pacifist vocation and determination to settle through international law the border differences which have divided both nations since 1969 when they fought a 100-hour war.

The local radio station also said the chief Honduran negotiator denied reports of meetings between Honduran and Salvadoran missions this week in Guatemala City as thoroughly discussed yesterday by local newspapers.

NICARAGUA

HONDURAN FISHING BOAT RELEASED

PA190632Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0120 GMT 19 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 18 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--The Nicaraguan Defense Ministry today, Tuesday, released the Honduran fishing vessel "Cape Willis" which was seized 10 days ago together with the "Victoria" while illegally fishing in Nicaragua's Atlantic waters. The release of the ship, which was held in Port El Bluff, together with its captain and 25-man crew, came after negotiations and the payment of a 1,500 cordobas ($214) fine by representatives of the owners of the "Cape Willis." The "Victoria" and its crew are being detained in the Nicaraguan port until its owners or representatives of the owners appear before the defense and economy ministries to pay their fine.

TROOPS REMOVE STUDENTS FROM HIGH SCHOOL

PA181936Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1600 GMT 18 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpt] Managua, 18 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Early this morning, Nicaraguan troops recovered control of the buildings of the Juan Jose Rodriguez Institute in Jinotepe, a city located 50 km south of here, which had been occupied by high school students for the past 3 weeks. Several sources have disclosed that the military troops, supported by a light tank, took up positions in front of the institute and violently dislodged the students.

Most of the large group of high school students who were occupying the state-owned school were arrested. However, a human rights defense committee immediately began efforts to obtain their release.

SOMOZA MEETS WITH BISHOP, MAKES PROMISES

PA181956Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1720 GMT 18 Apr 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] The hunger strike of political prisoners expanded yesterday when 14 persons joined the movement demanding improved prison conditions. The number of prisoners on strike has risen to 40. There are 28 prisoners in the Modelo prison drinking only water. In the police headquarters there are 12 prisoners in the same condition. They are women serving sentences similar to the men's, from 3 to 30 years, or are awaiting trial.

The hunger strike is to demand an end to the isolation of Tomas Borge Martinez and Marcio Jaenz of the Sandinist National Liberation Front and the transference of the women in the police headquarters to Modelo prison.

President Somoza met yesterday with Managua Archbishop Miguel Obando y Bravo who presented him with a request to meet the demands of the students and the political prisoners who have been on a hunger strike for 21 days.

The prelate's spokesman said that Somoza promised no retaliatory measures would be taken against the students who occupied over 50 high schools over 2 weeks ago. He also said that the school year would not be suspended, contrary to what was decided 8 days ago by the Education Ministry.

On the isolation of prisoners Tomas Borge and Marcio Jaenz, he said he would study the possibility of putting them together with other prisoners for sports and of permitting them to receive visits from their relatives.

At this time, a meeting is being held at the Education Ministry between a commission of the Federation of Parents of All Nicaragua and the education minister to find a solution to the students' problems. This afternoon at 1400, a meeting will be held at Centroamerica School with all the representatives of the parents associations of 40 private and government schools to make public the decisions taken by the parents with Education Minister Maria Elena de Porras.

APPROVAL OF CANAL TREATY BY SENATE REPORTED

FL190210Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Apr 78 FL

[Text] The North American Senate today approved the Panama Canal treaty, the principal one of the two signed last September, after abrogating an interventionist reservation which had been introduced by Dennis DeConcinni into the neutrality pact. The approved treaty establishes that on 31 December 1999 the United States will abandon the denominated Panama Canal Zone, passing to the Panamanians the control, operation and total administration of the interocean waterway. In such manner, the colonial enclave established by the United States in 1903--when it imposed on Panama a treaty in perpetuity giving it rights, as if it were sovereign, over 1,432 square kms of Panamanian territory--will come to an end.

RODRIGUEZ OPENS NONALINED COUNTRIES MEETING

FL181802Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0130 GMT 18 Apr 78 FL

[Opening speech by PCC Politburo member Carlos Rafael Rodriguez at inaugural session of nonalined countries Intergovernmental Council for Coordination of Information held at the Habana Libre Hotel, Havana City, on 17 April--recorded]

[Text] Your Excellency Moustapha Masmoudi, chairman of the intergovernmental Council for the Coordination of Information in the nonalined countries movement, distinguished observers and guests; members of the diplomatic corps, comrades.

Cuba, a founding country of the nonalined movement and a modest and firm member of the cause that unites us, considers this meeting in our country a unique honor. In having the privilege of welcoming you on behalf of the Cuban Government, it is a pleasure for me to convey to you the friendship and solidarity with which our people welcome you.

The presence in this hall of men and women who represent the vast conglomerate of countries which have been improperly labeled the Third World once again confirms the global character of our battle. The variety of our ideas does not prevent us from recognizing that it is the same enemy which opposes us, that the forces against which we must exercise our sovereignty and right to recover and use our wealth are identified by the same oppressive interest, although their aspirations and policies do not always coincide. This awareness of the need to unite, superseding all that which tends to differentiate us and sometimes divide us, is the principle force of the nonalined movement.

We already know that what happens in the Middle East or in the southern cone of Africa, in Johannesburg, Lebanon or in the Horn of Africa concerns us all and that we cannot be indifferent to the decisions made in New York or Washington. The solidarity among those of us who are struggling to escape backwardness and our alliance with the forces that understand and support us are at the center of the strategy which we have designed. In this world battle, information has played a decisive role for some time, but now more than ever before.

Ever since peoples became the principal protagonists of history and of their own destiny, the ideological conquest of the people, the effort to keep them disoriented and to conquer them so that they will meekly and passively accept inequality and poverty, has been a constant concern of the oppressors of peoples and countries. If at one time religion was enough for them as a political instrument or their monopoly of education as an ideological weapon, the development of the press and the beginning, with the industrial revolution, of technology for large-scale dissemination converted the struggle for monopolizing information into one of the fundamental objectives of successive reactionary forces over the past 200 years.

The purpose of information, when managed as a political and retarding force in our times, is to close the path for the information of peoples and the means for their reciprocal intercommunication and to take advantage of all the resources of science and technology to sow the ideology of the dominant classes in the minds of the oppressed, whether as exploited classes or colonized nations.

The transnational monopoly of news, the control over cinema, television and radio, and the crushing of the independent press in order to replace it with the big international consortiums which respond to the same interest and to a single policy which, of course, is one on information, became the ideological companion of the economic concentration which led from the original capitalism of free enterprise to the conglomerates and transnational companies of our times. Thus, a truth is imposed on the peoples, a truth devised and manipulated by their enemies who control information.

The image which man today receives from the time he opens his eyes and ears to the world is that which reaches him through the screen, music and press overwhelmingly managed by the international imperialist control centers.

The nonalined movement has understood since its formation that the struggle for freedom of information and for the people's control of their information media formed a substantial part of the objectives outlined by the developing countries when they decided to unite in this movement to undertake a common program. The political declaration of the fifth summit which we held in Colombo 2 years ago clearly defined it in its Paragraph 102 which declared, and I quote: The emancipation and development of national information media are an integral part of the general struggle for political, economic and social independence of a great majority of the nations of the world to which cannot be denied the right to inform and be informed objectively and correctly. Self-dependence in sources of information is as important as technological self-dependence because dependency in the information field at the same time delays the attainment of political and economic development itself. End of quote.

In this concept lies the root which led our movement to organize the "pool" of news agencies that has attempted, with increasing success, to break the international monopoly on news exercised by the large news agencies whose names are tied to the growth itself of imperialism and its policies.

We cannot harbor premature illusions because when the pages of the press are opened not only in the large international centers of the developed countries but, unfortunately, also in the capitals of the countries in our own movement, what predominates is the interpretation of daily international events as hatched in the offices of the transnationals. What happens in Cuba or Bombay, in Lebanon or Santiago, Chile, reaches us through the distorted view of imperialist interests.

However, what is new and gives us reason for historic optimism is that--along with that avalanche of falsehoods, grotesque distortion of our situation and subtle distortions--our coordinated news agencies are, modestly but persistently, beginning to carry news, interpretations and rectifications for the people, including the workers themselves against whom the oppression which we want to overcome has historically emanated. That is the growing effect of the "pool" of news agencies created by the nonalined movement.

In this necessary struggle the Intergovernmental Council for the Coordination of Information in the movement has an orientation role whose importance I do not have to stress. The worsening of contradictions in the field of ideological battle in recent times is an indication of the intense vigor with which the progressive forces, particularly the nonalined movement, act on the international scene.

Two international conferences of great political significance have been recent settings for this polemic and they contributed to universalizing the problem of information. I refer to the intergovernmental conference on communication policies held in San Jose, Costa Rica, and the 19th UNESCO General Conference in Nairobi, both held in 1976.

Although the countries of Latin America are still too divided and in many of them still prevail fascist and autocratic regimes whose survival depends on their subordination to imperialism, the Costa Rica conference unanimously emphasized the situation of dependence and lack of communication prevailing in Latin America and formulated the need for regional action to expand autonomous communication policies and stimulate exchange between nations, free of intermediaries. It demanded the right of access to resources which would allow our countries to inform and be informed in a balanced and objective manner.

The strong hostility of the Inter-American Press Association, managed by the Yankee consortiums, and its instruments and that of the transnational news agencies, particularly UPI and Associated Press, supported by all the news media available to the U.S. Information Agency which recently became the International Communications Agency under the State Department, demonstrate how those recommendations of the San Jose conference--which are nothing more than a demand for existence of the liberal and democratic principles that were included in the U.S. declaration of independence 200 years ago and in the declaration on the rights of man in France in 1789--seem to be a threat to those who have converted deceit and cultural distortion into an instrument with which they can maintain their oppressive system.

The bitter attacks on Latin American chiefs of state and even against UNESCO and its director general were the angry response to the consensus obtained there [in San Jose] against the news media monopoly. The masters of news in America could not stand it that their old rules of play in their own and exclusive territorial enclave, rules which have been so useful for them, were beginning to fail.

The Costa Rica conference was an important precedent for the debate that took place in Nairobi surrounding the declaration of principles on the news media. It was the first conference in UNESCO's history to be sponsored by that international organization, which was bitterly attacked even before the results were known. This gives us an idea of the importance of the problem that you will study at this meeting.

For its part, the 20th [as heard] UNESCO General Conference in Nairobi showed the unity of action of the nonalined and developing countries to attain national information systems. At the same time, it served to confirm the status of the struggle for autonomous media and for the free and balanced flow of information.

We should like to take advantage of this occasion to reiterate our support for the agreements reached there aimed at strengthening information and communication resources in our countries and to offer very special attention to the activities of this International Coordinating Council of the nonalined countries and its committee for coordination of the pool of news agencies which are responsible for implementing the agreements reached in the symposium held in Tunisia and those of New Delhi which were authenticated in Colombo.

The effects of the problem that was discussed at these forums were also highlighted during the discussion of the declaration of fundamental news media principles in favor of peace, disarmament and understanding among peoples. The enemies of the rights of peoples to their sovereignty and recovery of their resources, who also are the enemies of peace and disarmament and promoters of disunity, succeeded in postponing discussions until the next UNESCO General Conference that will be held this year.

We should like to call to the attention of the council the danger of that essential document being left out of the debates by means of the procedure--already well known in the deliberative play of the United Nations--of indefinitely postponing the discussion of topics. This occurred with Resolutions 10(2) and 127(2) against bellicose propaganda and false or distorted information and to the resolutions approved in Geneva 30 years ago concerning the international acquisition and transmission of information.

An indication of the fierce resistance to our demand for the universal right to information is the fact that 14 years after that Geneva conference, or in 1962, a study made by UNESCO at the request of the United Nations showed that 70 percent of the world population still did not at that time have news services. Any present study would show results that would be slightly less discouraging.

You, specialized leaders of information in your respective countries, know very well that the battle in which we are involved is more difficult for people who, like our own, have barely emerged from the backwardness in development imposed on us because contemporary informtion is related to the application of global technological resources on which the large hegemonic centers of imperialism have an almost absolute monopoly. Thus technological transfer can also become in this sense a new instrument of penetration and control by the transnational companies.

If, as demonstrated in scores of recent studies, the economy of countries that will now emerge into a nominal independence is again tied, through the transfer of technology, to the old and some new metropolises, the transfer of technology in the field of information and technology can become an even more subtle and assured instrument by which their former exploiters can maintain influence over our peoples. In the economic field, the masters of consumer societies are destined to perpetrate underdevelopment among us. The acceptance in our information systems of the values and consumption style of the developed countries entails, as noted by a distinguished international researcher, a new self-colonization process. It is true that data processing, the programmed transmission of the flow of information and the large-scale use of the "subworld" [spoken in English] are instruments we cannot renounce. However, as long as those instruments are controlled and managed by those from whom our countries want to liberate themselves, their incorporation as part of the national information process and of the international communication to which we aspire will make us unconscious large-scale consumers of the same ideology we want to reject.

Those lifestyles that condemn us to permanent subordination are now emerging many times over through techniques which confuse and, for that same reason, subjugate. It was not a leader of our countries, which are on a low industrial level, but the Canadian minister of state for science and technology, Hugh Faulkner, who observed that, I quote: The problem of transnational flow of information has created a potentially increasing dependence, rather than interdependence, and, with it, the danger of the loss of legitimate access to vital information and the danger that social and industrial development will be broadly controlled by the decisions of groups of interests residing in other countries. End of quote.

When we know that the Lockheed Corporation by 1975 already had more than 12 million records or entries in its master computers and that with that it controlled more than 50 percent of the commercial information and consultation service worldwide, we are not surprised by the scandal in which leaders of powerful industrial countries were involved in their links to favors from that extremely powerful transnational company. Our concern must increase in the knowledge that at the beginning of 1976 the United States of America controlled 89 percent of the computerized commercial information in 277 banks in that country and Western Europe.

It is not a case of technical data designed to maintain the flow of business or internal operation of companies. The data includes an enormous amount of information of all types, personal and national, social, commercial, economic and military, which is processed and transmitted among the supercorporations that operate at the world level and also utilized by some governmental bureaucracies for their own aims of extortion, blackmail or reactionary orientation.

The North American authorities themselves have confessed that those information services based on data-processing are instruments through which North American government investments are extended for defense and in the aerospace field. In this way, the technology which can liberate us paradoxically becomes a new instrument for our subordination. The computerized programs which could serve to transmit to millions of children and youths the results of progress through educational techniques which backward countries still cannot attain, results which would reach them from the most modern centers, far from contributing to the enrichment of our youths and the accelerated training of technical cadres to convert them into the core of activities for the economic, political and cultural development of the underdeveloped countries, serve on the contrary, to disseminate, on a massive scale and through the use of psychology, the perpetuation of inequality between the dominant center and the dominated periphery. The utilized "subworld" conditions the objectives of the questions and answers.

Mr Chairman and delegates. Allow me to tell you in these opening remarks that the history of our small country is an early example of that influence managed through information techniques of the enslaving metropolis. Perhaps Cuba was one of the first among the neocolonized countries to receive the apparent benefits of the modern mass communications techniques. In the 1920's when the United States barely had 30 radio stations and 60,000 radio receivers, the first broadcasting stations were beginning to operate in our small country, imposing the North American model.

While radio broadcasting in Europe was organized from the beginning under the auspices of the state which controlled the frequencies and programs, as was the case in Great Britain and France, Cuba, in the style of the nearby metropolis, was left with radio broadcasting at the service of commercial interests.

It is true that state ownership does not in itself guarantee the truth of information or the ideological content that is broadcast, since this depends on the orientation of the government. But there is no doubt that if, in addition to the ideological content, the interests of private companies are the dominant note, the result, as occurred in Cuba, is corruption of pleasures, commercialization of news and a lowering of culture to untenable levels of vulgarity, in addition to ideological distortion.

Earlier, by the middle of the last century when Cuba was still under Spanish colonial domination, the North American telephone and telegraph companies had already assured for themselves the control of future transmissions. Under that sign, television also appeared in Cuba simultaneous with its development in the United States in the 1940's which also was within the framework of private enterprise dominated by U.S. investors.

The information control cycle was thereby closed since the press in our country with its 17 periodical publications was, above all, aimed at supplying ideological food to the dominant groups and their nearby servants with 300,000 daily issues in a country with more than 20 percent illiteracy which in 1959 affected more than a million youths and adults who could not write or read.

Liberated from these obstacles by the revolution, and now master of its own information resources which are methodically used and scientifically aimed at informing our people, at continued raising of the cultural levels of the Cuban population and at providing legitimate recreation, Cuba, however, continues to experience the painful evidence of the enormous force which the enemies of our freedom and yours still have over the control of information in the contemporary world.

Those who do not know of our small country except through the distorted dissemination of Cuba's reality by the large international capitalist press which daily prevails in the radio and television programs in their big capitals, can barely recognize that the Cuba that is presented there is the same country which you are visiting. We have seen the amazement, surprise and subsequent indignation of hundreds of visitors like you, some of whom are quite apart from our ideology but who are honest in objectively confirming how the situation in Cuba had been presented to them. This corroborates the justness of the positions of the nonalined movement and this council has the mission of organizing and disseminating those positions.

They no longer can say that there is poverty and backwardness in Cuba, and it is impossible for them to deny the reality of the profound, extensive and victorious educational transformations in our country. Those who know that the significance of Cuban achievements in public health has been disseminated to all corners of the Earth, those who must admit the contrast between the kidnapings of economic and political leaders, the assassinations in streets and organized violence in the big Western capitals, and the peace and joy which every visitor finds in any of our cities and rural areas, are now concentrating their efforts on distorting the Cuban revolution in attempting to slander Cuba's international objectives and actions.

The heroic willingness of our youths to give their lives in defense of the freedom of other peoples, whether in Angola or Ethiopia, and the generous impulse which taken them everywhere to provide modest technical assistance are presented as a threat, forgetting that America gained its freedom with armies which the Caraqueno Simon Bolivar, with Venezuelan followers, led from Bogota to Lima; and the Argentine San Martin, commanding his gauchos, met with Bolivar in remote Guayaquil.

Dear visitors, we Cubans therefore understand quite well the importance of the problems that you will be discussing. If there is any experience we dare convey to you, it is that which has come from our history from the initial days of the independence struggle more than a century ago. Our predecessors in those days had at the beginning already warned of the role of information as an element of combat between the ideas of liberty and colonizing ideas. They founded newspapers of war in our bushes that served them as camps. That example continued throughout the republican struggle against the foreign imperialism which succeeded Spain in the neocolonial tutelage.

The working class and progressive forces did not allow themselves to be drowned by that technically superior avalanche of the press, radio and television which disseminated adverse propaganda through all its pores. From its poverty, the Cuban revolutionary working class extracted funds to acquire a modest radio station that was the symbol of its class consciousness. Jose Marti had said that trenches of ideas are worth more than trenches of stone, and years later, the one who was in our day to succeed Marti in leading his country and people, Fidel Castro, converted the trench of ideas into an essential weapon in the struggle that he organized. He carried out skirmishes with the enemy on its own propagandistic territory and when he climbed the Sierra Maestra Mountains his first concern there was that, along with weapons, there would be information media at the service of the revolution.

Thus, just a few days ago we commemorated the 20th anniversary of Radio Rebelde, the simple but effective radio station which night after night from the peaks of those mountains carried to our people true reports and a clear message of the development of the fighting against the tyranny. And if anyone wants an example of how the technology recovered by the nation and the leaders at its service can change from a deforming vehicle to a clarifying force of popular awareness, it suffices to recall how in the first and difficult times of this revolutionary process the almost daily appearance of Fidel Castro on Cuban television made it possible for our people to rid themselves of the ideological sediments of several decades of massively administered reactionary and imperialist propaganda and to understand, in a brief period of time, the profound reality of our history, the origin of our economic, political and social problems, the nature of our independence and the significance of the socialist revolution that was being proposed to them.

That is why, distinguished visiting friends, comrades in this cause of the nonalined movement to which we are all committed, we can tell you with modesty, but at the same time with pride, that this Cuban setting is historically propitious for the tasks you have been assigned.

On behalf of our government and people, in inaugurating the sessions of this council we do so reiterating that it is an honor for our small but free island that you have selected it to host such an important event. Thank you very much. [prolonged applause]

18 APRIL SESSION OF NONALINED COUNTRIES MEETING REPORTED

FL182225Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2132 GMT 18 Apr 78 FL

[Text] During today's morning session, the delegates to the second meeting of the nonalined countries Intergovernmental Council for Coordination of Information discussed two points of the agenda of the meeting, which is being held at the Havana Libre Hotel. The first topic discussed this morning was the exchange of opinions in the field of information between nonalined countries and other nations, which was submitted for consideration by the delegation from Tunisia.

This topic was enriched with the contributions made by delegates who focused on the imbalance of information on an international level and the need for putting an end to that situation. The delegates agreed that their countries do not oppose free information but will not allow misinformation. The desire to maintain among nonalined countries the awareness of organization in everything that tends to unite them rather than separate them prevailed throughout the session.

The second and last point discussed this morning was the one dealing with cooperation of the Intergovernmental Council with UNESCO and other international organizations. (Sandy Hammil), chief of division for information and communications of UNESCO, reported on the measures that the organization will adopt to cooperate with nonalined countries and other nations in establishing a new international order in the field of information.

(Mauris del Carril), UNCTAD representative in Cuba, greeted the meeting's participants in a brief speech. The UNESCO report was praised by the delegates.

Iraqi Information Minister's Address

JN191118Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1056 GMT 19 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Havana, 19 April--Iraq has called for the (?rectification) of the imbalance in international relations in the information field through the escalation of the struggle of the nonalined and developing states against the imperialist monopoly of the information media.

Iraqi Information Minister Sa'd Qasim Hammudi addressed the morning session [words indistinct] of the information ministers of the nonalined states. He said that this imbalance [words indistinct] is part of the struggle between the world forces of liberation and progress on the one hand and the enemies of peoples, including imperialists, Zionists and reactionaries, on the other hand.

Hammudi added: The monopoly by the advanced industrial states of the information media reflects the ambitions of the imperialists, who seek to perpetuate their looting of the resources of peoples through limiting the flow of news to one channel only and through their distortion of facts. Hammudi called for coordination and cooperation among the nonalined countries [words indistinct] and the exchange of expertise among them to foil the imperialist-reactionary attempts to continue to monpolize the information media.

MALMIERCA IN MOSCOW FOR MEETINGS WITH LEADERS

For Soviet reportage on activities and speeches involving Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca Peoli during his Moscow visit, see the Latin American & Caribbean section of the 19 April and subsequent issues of the Soviet Union DAILY REPORT.

SOVIETS WORKING ON ELECTRIC POWER PROJECTS IN CUBA

FL181213Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Specialists from the Energosetproyekt Institute have concluded the first stage in laying the technical and economic foundation to build a nuclear energy plant of Soviet technology in Cuba. They also finished the technical project on propects for Cuban electrical energy development up to 1890.

In cooperation with Cubans, they have drawn up a general outline for an intensive supply of electricity to all regions of the country. The project calls for the creation within 2 or 3 years of a single energy system for the whole country.

MEXICAN AGRARIAN REFORM DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR VISIT

FL181649Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1509 GMT 18 Apr 78 FL

[Text] The Mexican delegation headed by (Miguel Osirio Marvon), Mexican under secretary for agrarian reform, was briefed on the development of Cuban agriculture since the triumph of the revolution. The briefing took place at the hog research institute headquarters in Havana where the guests were informed on the present organizational structure of the Agriculture Ministry.

The delegation is made up of (Cassio Luis Seri), adviser to the president of the republic, and (Federico Osorio), representative of the land tenure regulatory commission.

At the invitation of Rafael Francia Mestre, PCC Central Committee member and agriculture minister, the delegation will be in our country until next Sunday and will visit agricultural-livestock research and production centers.

FORTHCOMING VISIT BY MENGISTU HAILE MARIAM ANNOUNCED

FL191115Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Lt Col Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council and of the Council of Ministers of Socialist Ethiopia, will visit Cuba in the near future on an official and friendly visit at the invitation of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Republic of Cuba's councils of state and ministers.

VEIGA ADDRESSES WORLD TRADE UNION CONGRESS

FL181904Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Trade union leaders from Cuba and the banned Chilean Trade Union Confederation were the Latin American speakers at the first session of the Ninth World Trade Union Congress. The Cuban delegate, Roberto Veiga, secretary general of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers, stated that the workers' struggle is indivisible, because we consider the existence of the WFTU an unavoidable necessity. The Cuban leader called for the strengthening of the trade unions' struggles against revisionism, opportunism, national selfishness, sectarianism, dogmatism and the thesis of class conciliation.

GRANMA REPORTS ON STATUS OF PRESENT SUGAR HARVEST

FL181259Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 18 Apr 78 FL

[Text] The paper GRANMA, official organ of our party's Central Committee, today publishes an analysis of the status of the present sugar cane harvest. The paper states that the grinding levels have decreased during the past week. According to the national average, the decrease in volume of processed sugar cane was 1.1 million arrobas per day which, for example, would keep one of our large mills inactive for the whole week.

The GRANMA analysis states that while the grinding potential for the week of 3 to 9 April reached 84 percent with the curve appearing to be rising, only 82 percent was achieved last week. According to the statistics, the lack of sugarcane from manual and mechanized cutting has been the basic cause for this decrease. The GRANMA analysis states that insufficient supply of raw materials to the sugar mills is the result of several factors, such as the noncompletion by the manual cutting forces, low attendance and productivity, hauling difficulties and combine breakdowns.

In comparing the last 2 weeks, the paper points out that from 10 to 16 April the effects of the rains decreased. The report further states that the decrease in the number of arrobas of sugarcane sent to the mills occurs at a time when the industrial yields [of sugar] show positive results. Therefore, it adds, it is essential to raise the rate of the cutting, loading, hauling and grinding during this 100-day event of decisive effort in the sugarcane harvest.

HART ATTENDS CEREMONY GIVING BUILDING TO FESTIVAL GROUP

FL181651Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1522 GMT 18 Apr 78 FL

[Juan Emilio Fribulus report]

[Text] With the attendance of Armando Hart Davalos, PCC Central Committee Politburo member and culture minister, the (Jose Luis Pasende) Culture Club in Miramar was handed over to the 11th World Youth and Students Festival Organizing Committee. The renovation of the building was carried out by volunteer worker brigades from the culture and iron and steel machinery industry ministries. The chief of the group, who was in charge of the project, (Carlos Perez Font), handed over the building to the presidency of the 11th festival organizing committee.

Iron and Steel Machinery Industry Minister Lester Rodriguez, Manuel Villamar and Col Juan Escalona from the 11th festival organizing committee, culture workers, trade union secretary general Jacinto Viamontes, and (Rafael Navarrete) of the iron and steel machinery industry attended the ceremony.

CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE SENDS LETTER TO FIDEL CASTRO

FL142326Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 14 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Stimulated by the recent visit paid to us by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, the construction workers at the bagasse particle board plant have ratified in a letter sent to the leader of the revolution a pledge to deliver the plant in November 1978. The plant is being built near the Camilo Cienfuegos sugar mill in Santa Cruz del Norte municipality, Havana Province. It is valued at over 9 million pesos. It will be the largest of its type in Cuba and will have a daily production capacity of 120 metric tons of boards.

In the letter to Fidel--approved by unanimity by the workers at an assembly chaired by (Emilio Tairo), member of the municipal party bureau--the industrial projects land brigade No 4 collective, which is building the plant, states its willingness to intensify its efforts to complete the task by 1 November 1978. In their letter to Fidel, the construction workers of the bagasse particle board plant in Santa Cruz del Norte state that the presence of the leader of the revolution and the talks held with him caused us to pledge to the PCC to have the aforementioned project in operation in 1978 because of the importance of its production.

PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM ARRIVES IN MOSCOW

FL171749Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 17 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Moscow--Guyanese Prime Minister Forbes Burnham today arrived in this capital for an official visit and was received at the airport by USSR Council of Ministers Chairman Aleksey Kosygin. Burnham, who had been in Leningrad since last Friday, today will initiate official talks with Soviet officials on matters concerning bilateral relations and international issues. In 1977 Guyana and the USSR signed an economic, scientific and technical cooperation agreement and other agreements which have expanded commercial and cultural ties between the two countries.

Agreement Signed

FL190145Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Apr 78 FL

[Text] In Moscow, the Cooperative Republic of Guyana and the Soviet Union today signed an agreement on cultural, scientific and technical cooperation at the governmental level. The agreement was signed during the official visit being paid to the Soviet Union by Prime Minister Forbes Burnham, who can be seen in this film footage--received via satellite--conducting various activities, such as laying a wreath at the foot of the Lenin mausoleum and a visit to the Tomb of Unknown Soldier.

DEBATE OVER NEW CONSTITUTION OUTLINED

FL171810Y Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 11 Apr 78 pp 1, 2 FL

[By Mohamed Hamaludin]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Forbes Burnham has announced that a draft new constitution for Guyana will be based on the socialist philosophy of the ruling People's National Congress (PNC) and will make a declaration of the people's right to work, to life and to education.

The new constitution will also officially recognize certain organisations, such as trade unions and local government bodies, and deal not only with local government processes but also the inter-action between such processes and the central government processes.

Moving the second reading of the constitution (amendment) bill, 1978, the prime minister assured the house further that the new constitution would be promulgated after full consultation with the people, as was done recently in the Soviet Union. But he rejected opposition demands that the entire draft constitution should be put to a referendum, arguing that a constitution was a series of fundamental questions, and not a single question, and a referendum would produce no fair conclusion or verdict of the people. It was much easier, he said, for a referendum to be held on single questions which could be identified and voted on.

Cde. Burnham stated that the draft new constitution would, however, provide not only for rights but also for duties of citizens, and the duties of the state as well, and he referred to the Yugoslav Constitution which sets out as a duty for each citizen the defence of their country.

According to the prime minister, the existing constitution, drafted at a time when independence was being negotiated for Guyana in 1965, had been altered on many occasions since then and had become a "patched" document. He recalled amendments which enabled the nationalisation of the bauxite industry, the acquisition of property for public purposes, and the state takeover of education. "The constitution has become a bit of a patched work. This is so because the Republic of Guyana has moved away from the old constitution in many issues," he said.

If the bill now being debated was rejected, then the groundwork would not have been laid for the creation of a new society.

Cde. Burnham noted that the government majority in parliament (37 of the 53 seats) guaranteed passage of the measure, and the opposition should direct its attention to the main points in any new constitution and the referendum to follow on the bill.

He said that the major parties both embraced socialism and so there should be "wide areas of agreement" on the new constitution but that there would be areas of differences, since the constitutions of the various socialist states themselves had differences. But speaking after the prime minister opened the debate, People's Progressive Party (PPP) frontbenchers Reepu Daman Persaud and Clinton Collymore both attacked the bill as a vicious measure by which the ruling party intended to sidestep general elections and keep itself in office. Both charged that the government was afraid to face the electorate because of the economic situation and the more recent difficulties in the electricity and water supplies, and so was asking for "a blank cheque" to run the country in the future. Both PPP spokesmen alleged too that the referendum to follow the passage of the bill in parliament would be rigged. Several hours before the debate began, placard-bearing demonstrators gathered in front of the National Assembly to register their feelings over the measure.

Cde. Burnham, initiating the debate, drew special attention, as the attorney general and justice minister, Dr. Shahabuddeen, did over the weekend on radio, to the entrenched constitution right guaranteeing absolute right to private property, regardless of how such property came to be owned. He drew a clear distinction between private property used for exploiting people and personal property for personal use, and clearly hinted that the draft new constitution would remove the entrenched right over the former type of property.

He charged too, that the "compromise" constitution now in existence had certain entrenched provisions, requiring a referendum, without there being any apparent reason, except to perpetuate the old system. But he said that a new constitution would contain some provisions which were in the existing constitution as well as some new provisions.

The PPP's Reepu Daman Persaud claimed, like his colleague Collymore, that the bill was aimed at changing the electoral system, adding that should it be passed, it would remove from the people their last rights in the constitution. Cde. Persaud said the government could point to no instance where it had been thwarted by the present constitution from anything it wanted to do, and the basic question before parliament was whether parliament wanted to do away with the people's right to say whether they wanted amendments. He said that was not a question for parliament. He called for the amendment to be referred to a select committee of the house to allow for further consideration of all its implications.

Cde. Collymore described the bill as being "perfidious, iniquitous, and the very final nail in the coffin of democracy in Guyana." It would be doing away with referendums forever and the government was scared of facing the people because of the economic situation and because its own membership was falling sharply.

Jagan Denounces Proposed Constitution

PA160242Y Paris AFP in English 0225 GMT 16 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Georgetown, Apr 15 (AFP)--Guyanese opposition leader Cheddi Jagan warned today that the danger of "an authoritarian dictatorship in this South American republic was now "a very real one" following the government's recent proposals to amend the national constitution. In a statement, the former premier said the bill the government put through parliament earlier this week eliminating the necessity of submitting proposed constitutional changes to referendums "takes away people's rights to determine the constitution under which they must live."

He suggested that the government of Prime Minister Forbes Burnham would rig the referendum which has to be held to endorse the anti-referendum amendment itself, and would then postpone the general election scheduled for later this year for [words indistinct] years. The government aimed to "perpetuate itself in power at the expense of people's fundamental rights," he said.

In an editorial today, the weeekly newspaper the CATHOLIC STANDARD said there would be no peace in Guyana unless the government held free and fair elections as scheduled.

Prime Minister Burnham was meanwhile in Leningrad at the start of his first official visit to the Soviet Union. He will later to on to North Korea and East Germany as part of a month-long trip in search of economic aid.

GUYANA-SURINAM BORDER DISPUTE REPORTED

FL152335Y Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 9 Apr 78 p 32 FL

[Excerpt] The recall of Guyana's ambassador to Surinam a few days ago is the latest development in the seriously deteriorating relations between the two countries.

Harassment by Surinam authorities of Guyanese fishermen and loggers whose livelihood depends upon continued use of the Corentyne River has been the main feature in the breakdown of friendly relations.

1978 licences for the use of the river have not been issued by Surinam. Guyanese fishermen, loggers and the operators of floating shops were issued with a banning notice signed by the district commissioner of Nickerie, R.T. Bharos. This has affected the earnings of more than 400 people to the extent that the Guyana defence force had to be mobilised to take in food to stranded loggers and sawmill operators in the Corentyne.

PPP REJECTS OFFER TO SIT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL COUNCIL

FL171820Y Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 13 Apr 78 p 3 FL

[Excerpt] Georgetown, Guyana, Wednesday, (CANA)--Guyana's main opposition party, the People's Progressive Party (PPP) has annnounced rejection of a government invitation to name representatives to one of the four agencies of the new commission set up to centrally plan the Guyana economy. The PPP said in a statement that it had been invited to sit on the National Economic and Social Council of the commission, but it rejected the offer because it was not satisfied with the "limitations placed on the commission which subjected it to the Economic Development and Cooperatives Minister."

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